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Hitting the brakes

Amid rising accidents, LAPD seeks to rein in pursuits

A rise in the number of accidents caused by police chases over the past year, accompanied by an increase in public anger, has prompted Los Angeles Chief William Bratton to propose a change in policy that would ban police pursuits initiated by minor infractions, and require greater supervision of chases already in progress.

According to a study by the Los Angeles Police Commission, which Bratton is said to be drawing heavily upon, the department engaged in more chases in 2001 than did agencies in 20 other locations, including Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Las Vegas, Philadelphia and St. Louis. That year, there were 781 pursuits in Los Angeles, compared to 597 the previous year. The problem has grown to the point that police pursuits in the city, which are covered in real time by constantly-hovering helicopters from seven TV stations, have been described as "L.A.'s longest-running reality show."

The commission's report said the 238 pursuit-related collisions in 2001 were exceeded only by Dallas and Las Vegas — cities that also permit chases

for traffic violations. Moreover, from 2000 to 2001, the city paid out \$132 million in liability claims stemming from police pursuits.

Under the proposal, infractions such as broken tail lights, missing license plates or minor traffic violations would no longer be grounds justifying a pursuit. According to a review by the commission, those types of offenses are the cause for at least 60 percent of LAPD chases. Any policy change would have to be approved by the board.

"What Bratton has done is what many departments have been doing over the years," said Geoffrey Alpert, a professor of criminal justice at the University of South Carolina and an expert on pursuit policies. "There was a push in the early and mid-1990s to restrict pursuits to very serious types of offenses, with the continuum going from violent offenders only to different kinds of felonies or prohibiting traffic."

A National Institute of Justice survey, said Alpert, indicated that the trend in 1996 was to restrict pursuits based on the type of offense.

Unlike other states, California had

no incentive to pursue a change in policy, he said, because the state had no financial liability. Now that that has been questioned, Bratton is bringing the department into line with other agencies, Alpert said.

In 1991, he noted, the Metro-Dade Police Department had 450 chases. The following year, when it changed its policy, restricting chases only to cases of fleeing violent felonies, that figure dropped to 50.

"You see Boston and Memphis and a lot of major cities going to a violent felony-only policy and saving lives and property and costs," Alpert told Law Enforcement News.

A furor was unleashed in June when a 4-year-old girl was killed in an accident caused when Los Angeles police pursued a driver who ran a red light. Then on Dec. 3, an infant's arm was severed when his parents' car was struck by a vehicle carrying four men fleeing police in Sylmar.

Bratton proposed that the department adopt "a policy that emphasized public safety over the need to immediately catch traffic violators by prohib-

iting pursuits when the only reason for the initial contact is an infraction." The new policy, Bratton added, "will still require that the officers continually assess whether to continue to pursue or terminate based on numerous factors such as speed, weather conditions and weighing the immediacy of apprehension of any law violator against the danger to officers and others."

In the future, police helicopters will be used more frequently to chase vehicles, and increased penalties will be levied against motorists who evade police. Bratton also wants watch commanders and other supervisors to exercise greater control over chases.

"If the police commission adopts the new policy, it would be doing what some departments throughout Southern California have already done," Ramona Ripston, executive director of the ACLU of Southern California, told The Los Angeles Times. "Some of these high-speed pursuits have resulted in harm and even death to innocent bystanders. It's an ongoing problem and it's about time the police commission changed its policy."

Desperate to find Baton Rouge serial killer, some say DNA net goes too far

Civil libertarians charged this month that investigators hunting for the Baton Rouge, La., serial killer have used coercive tactics in their efforts to obtain DNA material that they hope to match to crime-scene evidence left behind by the person who has so far murdered four southern Louisiana women.

In November, Shannon F. Kohler, a 44-year-old welder from Baton Rouge, became the first person to have his identity revealed when he refused to submit a sample. According to Kohler, authorities told him that providing it was his choice, but if he refused, his name would be publicly linked with the investigation.

"They could have eliminated me as a suspect in other ways," Kohler told

The Associated Press. "They didn't have to do that."

He noted that he had phone bills showing he was at home when the murders were committed, and that his feet are bigger than the prints left by the killer. A DNA sample obtained under court order has cleared Kohler.

So far, police have swabbed the mouths of 800 men. When they linked a fourth victim in December to the same man believed to be the murderer, they made a list of another 100 they wanted genetic samples from, including Kohler.

Investigators believe the killer is a white male who drives a 1990s white pickup truck. Over the past 15 months, he has been responsible for the deaths of Gina Wilson Green, 41; Charlotte

Murray Pace, 22; Pam Kinamore, 44; and Trineisha Dene Colombo, 23.

"In this case, all these people are assumed guilty until they're proven innocent," Joe Cook, executive director of the Louisiana American Civil Liberties Union, told The AP. "I don't think that's credible evidence to target someone. It's been proven time and again that this type of targeting is bad police work. The people who have come forward would appear to have been coerced."

DNA dragnets work, said Lawrence Kobilinsky, a serologist and professor of forensic science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. But they come at a price that may be too high.

"Giving up a specimen — legally, it's not the same thing as being forced

to testify against yourself," Kobilinsky said in an interview with Law Enforcement News. "But on the other hand, you can force someone to give up a blood specimen by subpoena."

While the Louisiana dragnet is one step removed because it comes as a request for voluntary cooperation, Kobilinsky is nonetheless troubled by it, he said.

"I'm in favor of law enforcement, and obviously I want to catch the bad guys, but at what expense? I worry about people's right to privacy. As we get more and more worried about security, people's privacy is being invaded at different levels and this is just one example of that."

Continued on Page 10

The big chill:

It's all over but the eulogy for Md. HotSpots effort

It appears that Maryland's HotSpots program, a community-policing initiative that has long had its yes- and no-sayers within the state's law enforcement community, is finally headed for the chopping block.

The initiative is considered as good as dead by community leaders. A signature program of former Lieut. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, HotSpots was launched seven years ago with a \$32-million state grant. Local police departments opened storefront substations, saturated troubled neighborhoods with resources and cracked down on the smallest offenses. The program had some real success, according

to a University of Pennsylvania study issued last September, which found an 8.8-percent decrease in violent crime in HotSpots communities from 1996 to 2000.

But the initiative also had its critics, chief among them the man who defeated Townsend in the November race for governor, Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., who repeatedly derided it during his campaign. Although a spokesman for Ehrlich said it would be inappropriate to comment on the fate of the program before the governor submits his budget proposal to the Legislature, the state must determine how to deal with a \$1.2-billion deficit for the fiscal year begin-

ning on July 1.

"If the state cuts off the funding, it's going to be very difficult to sustain the program," David Weaver, a spokesman for the Montgomery County government, said in an interview with The Washington Post. "And I think the reality is it's going to be tough in most communities. Without question, this is our toughest budget year in eight years. We're already facing a [county] budget gap of approximately \$300 million, and that assumes no cuts in state aid."

In Baltimore, where the program had been called a "failed policy of the past" by former police commissioner Edward T. Norris, the city has already

made plans to reassign the 25 HotSpots officers. In December, Norris was named by Ehrlich to head the State Police [see "People & Places," Page 4]. Law-enforcement leaders in other communities, however, have vowed to keep the program going.

Howard County Police Chief G. Wayne Livesay said he would not close the department's satellite offices. The agency has three, one of which was created without state help. If he could find another site, Livesay told The Post, he would like to see one opened in the village of Oakland Mills.

Anne Arundel County has seen agencies which previously did not work

well together coordinate initiatives under the HotSpots program. Housing inspectors, for example, teamed up with police to crack down on slumlords. And participants helped plan a Halloween party last year in which residents handed out candy to disadvantaged youths.

County police there are reviewing other types of grants they could obtain to maintain the four sites they now have. "I'm sure there are others out there," Sgt. Jeff Noseworthy told The Post. "I can't see us pulling all the officers out of the area, simply because of the impact the program has had. It would be a shame to see that go away."

Around the Nation

Northeast



CONNECTICUT — State Public Safety Commissioner Arthur Spada is planning to "saturate" the highways by putting 131 top state police officials out on patrol twice a month to look for reckless drivers and speeders. Besides managers like Col. Timothy Barry, the state police commander, troopers will be drawn from special units like the public information office and community policing.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — According to police and health workers, PCP has surged in popularity after nearly disappearing during the years that crack cocaine took over the inner-city markets. PCP, which is known for its unpredictable and often violent high, is most often ingested by smoking cigarettes soaked in it. Police estimate that they saw the drug four times more often in 2002 than they did in 2001, and link some of last year's most startling homicides to PCP.

MARYLAND — Police in Montgomery County have formed a three-officer task force to look into the more than 70,000 tips that were received during the October sniper investigation. At the time, police could not look at tips that did not seem relevant to the investigation but now hope the information will lead them to people who possess or use guns illegally.

MASSACHUSETTS — The five Springfield police officers who have spent almost seven years challenging the tests that led to the appointment of the city's first female police chief, Paula Meara, have dropped their legal battle. A lawyer for the officers said they are dropping the case because appealing a decision that confirmed Meara's appointment would be too expensive.

NEW JERSEY — A planned overhaul of the state Division of Motor Vehicles includes computer software upgrades so that immigration status and other information about driver's license applicants can be verified. Vehicle registration fees will be raised by \$7 to pay for the improvements.

In a program said to be the only one of its kind in the country, the State Police is providing annual paid police internships, with stipends of \$5,000 a year, to 10 students at the Newark campus of Rutgers University who intend to join the force. The internships, which also include mentoring by a state trooper, were awarded to five New Jersey State Police Scholars last year, the program's first year.

NEW YORK — The state and city of New York have refused to accept the identification cards issued by the Mexican consulate as valid forms of ID for Mexican immigrants. The consular ID cards have so far been accepted by at least 13 states, but several other Northeastern states, including Connecticut and New Jersey, have refused to accept them.

A Manhattan appeals court ruled Jan. 8 that New York City's Civilian Complaint Review Board has the right to prosecute police officers for miscon-

duct. However, the unanimous ruling also mandated that any trials conducted by the board must be monitored by police department officials. Police unions see the ruling as a setback and are said to be looking into the possibility of an appeal.

The Police Benevolent Association of New York is planning to file a \$5-million civil lawsuit against William Hodges, the Queens man who allegedly shot rookie officer David Gonzalez. In a controversial ruling on Dec. 6, Supreme Court Justice Laura Blackburne dismissed attempted murder charges against Hodges because prosecutors had failed to meet a six-month deadline for bringing him to trial. It was later reported that Blackburne and Hodges's mother were friends and belonged to the same chapter of the NAACP. The women have since denied knowing each other.

State Police Superintendent James McMahon ordered a fleet of Ford Crown Victoria cruisers off the road hours after the head of the troopers union urged members not to drive the potentially unsafe vehicles. They will remain sidelined while the department installs protective gas-tank shields. The cars have been blamed in the deaths of at least 13 officers around the country, including that of New York State Trooper Robert Ambrose, who died Dec. 19 when his cruiser was rear-ended and burst into flames. The New York City Police Department is also installing the shields in its fleet of 1,439 Crown Victorias.

The No. 1 complaint identified in an 18-month study by the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board was use of foul or abusive language by police. Other substantiated complaints that ranked high on the list were unlawful searches and the use of unnecessary physical force. Overall, civilian complaints declined by 5.6 percent during the first six months of 2002, compared to the same period a year earlier.

VERMONT — State Police are asking hunters to help in searching for marijuana crops. While the plants are dead this time of the year, police say that knowing where the plots are will help them find plants months from now.

Southeast



ALABAMA — Former Fayette police officer Garland Quinn Yancey was freed on \$100,000 bond Jan. 6 after being indicted for the alleged sexual abuse of two children, both under the age of 12. An investigation began in May when a child's parent called a rape hotline.

ARKANSAS — The Pine Bluff City Council is considering a resolution to accept patrol cars from a North Carolina firm, Government Acquisitions LLC, for \$1 each in return for displaying advertisements for three years. The council said that the agreement could save the city \$250,000.

On Jan. 4, dozens of black men, many with their sons, rallied on a Little Rock street corner to protest black-on-black crime. Although black men make up

only 7 percent of the state's population, they made up nearly 45 percent of its murder victims in the 1990s.

FLORIDA — The final chapter in Miami's worst police scandal since the 1980s got underway on Jan. 6 when the trial began for 11 Miami police officers on federal corruption charges. The officers allegedly planted guns, manipulated evidence and covered up four police shootings that left three men dead. Two other officers, who already pleaded guilty, will testify for the prosecution.

Former Waldo police officer Chris Kirland has raised a few local eyebrows with his book about the town titled "America's Worst Speedtrap: A Former Officer's View." Waldo Police Chief A. W. Smith called the book, which claims the town uses speed traps, ticket quotas and coercion to generate revenue, a "work of extreme imagination."

GEORGIA — DeKalb County Police Chief Eddie Moody is considering establishing a police foundation similar to the one recently created in Atlanta. His staff is researching foundations in several other cities, including New Orleans, where the police foundation was created in 1996 by then-police superintendent Richard Pennington, who is now Atlanta's police chief.

East Point Police Officer Christopher R. Betts, 26, was killed Dec. 22 as he and another officer, James Weinmann, tried to subdue a man who scuffled with them on the side of a highway. A minivan driver struck all three men, killing Betts and the suspect, and seriously injuring Weinmann.

LOUISIANA — With the deaths of four women in the Baton Rouge and Lafayette areas having been linked via DNA to a serial killer, police are now investigating whether the same person was involved in the Christmas Eve abduction of a 65-year-old woman and the New Year's Eve disappearance of a 32-year-old woman. While they are still hunting for the two women, police in Lafayette will ask 50 to 100 men to voluntarily submit DNA samples. In Baton Rouge, police have already asked 600 men to submit samples. [See related story, Page 1.]

New Orleans deputy chief of policy and planning Gerald Ursin will resign rather than be demoted to captain after providing misleading information about having a college degree. Superintendent Eddie Compass said that when he had questioned Ursin about having a degree, "he told me basically, the idea of him not having a degree was ridiculous, so I took him at his word." Compass and two of his four deputy chiefs have master's degrees, although a college degree is not a prerequisite.

NORTH CAROLINA — Despite the planned addition of three 1,000-bed prisons, many state criminal justice officials fear that an unexpected surge in murderers, robbers and drug traffickers may cause a crisis to an already overextended prison system by the end of the decade. Officials say that prisons could be over capacity by nearly 1,300 inmates and if no additional prisons are built by 2012, the system could have nearly 7,700 more than it can handle.

TENNESSEE — Reginald Rome, one of two men inside a house where Shelby

County sheriff's deputy George Selby was shot and killed on Dec. 4, has been charged with first-degree murder and could face the death penalty. The other man was released without being charged. Selby and 11 other deputies from the county narcotics unit were serving a warrant at the house when three bullets were fired through the closed door. Selby was wearing a protective vest but he was shot underneath the arm, an area not covered by the vest. He died two hours later.

VIRGINIA — State police are upgrading their firepower with the purchase of about 1,500 M-4 military-style semi-automatic rifles. Sgt. David Cole of the State Police firearms unit said that "no other agency equips its officers with as much firepower as the Virginia State Police."

Matthew Dowdy, a 37-year-old Falls Church man, pleaded no contest on Jan. 7 to charges that he falsely told police he witnessed one of the October sniper shootings. Dowdy, who was sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$1,000, told police he saw the Oct. 14 shooting of Linda Franklin in a garage outside a Home Depot store, but security cameras showed that he was inside at the time. He gave a detailed description of the shooter's clothing, weapon, and vehicle, which turned out to be false.

Midwest



MICHIGAN — Wayne County Prosecutor Michael Duggan will not charge Detroit Officer Anthony Johnson with a crime for cutting off a woman's fingertip with a knife while trying to handcuff her. Joni Gullas, who has filed a \$100-million lawsuit against the city and Johnson, was in a parking lot when Johnson and two other officers noticed her unmarked van while on a burglary patrol. Gullas said she did not know they were police. Johnson was using the knife to cut off the sleeve of her oversized coat so that he could handcuff her when he cut off her fingertip.

Real estate developer Bill Marsh is offering six months free rent to Detroit police who move into any of his apartment buildings. Marsh said he was making the offer to thank police for helping to lower crime in the areas in which he owns his buildings. A police spokeswoman said she did not know of any department regulations that would bar officers from accepting.

Dispatchers in the Grand Rapids area had their work cut out for them after a typographical error in a newspaper advertisement, which announced a sale at a sporting goods store, listed the store's phone number as having a 911 prefix instead of 977. Readers who dialed the number reached dispatchers that service their areas. Many of the callers hung up when they realized the mistake and then didn't pick up the phone when dispatchers called back, causing police officers to be sent to their homes to investigate. The ad ran on New Year's Eve and a correction was put in the paper the following day.

OHIO — A Cuyahoga County grand jury has complained about the caseload and about being pressured by prosecu-

tors to bring indictments. The grand jury, which heard 1,532 cases in a month, reported that one assistant prosecutor told them he could get a poor job evaluation if they didn't indict some suspects.

Brown County Sheriff Dwayne Wenninger has been indicted on a felony charge of election falsification for allegedly lying about his education. Candidates for sheriff must have two years of management experience or a postgraduate degree from an accredited institution. The college that Wenninger attended was not accredited and a grand jury determined that his representation of the college as accredited was not an honest mistake.

Lakewood police officer Jeffery D. Krausher has resigned amid allegations that he sexually assaulted a woman while on duty on Christmas Eve. The complainant, a 35-year-old Parma woman, said that Krausher accused her of wrongdoing and then assaulted her in the back of his patrol car. Police Chief Timothy Malley said that the evidence supports the woman's claim. Once the coroner's technician finishes processing the evidence, the case will go to before a grand jury.

Homicides in Cleveland rose to 89 last year, an increase of six from the previous year and up 15 from 2000. The total was the highest since 1996, the last time the city recorded a triple-digit homicide toll.

In the face of budget problems, the village council of Chauncey has agreed to accept a deal that will get them new police cruisers for \$1 apiece in exchange for emblazoning the vehicles with advertising. The company offering the deal, Government Acquisitions LLC of Charlotte, N.C., said that 76 communities in 23 states have already signed up for the three-year leases. The company said it does not accept ads for gun or gambling companies, tobacco, or alcohol, but Police Chief Mike Marcum noted that he's willing to patrol in a cruiser that advertises just about anything but doughnuts. [See LEN, Nov. 15; Dec. 15/31, 2002.]

Law enforcement officials in Franklin County are calling a recent car chase remarkable, not only because of the role of a private citizen in the apprehension of the suspect but also because of the success of the MetroAlert system. The chase began when a Johnstown plumber, Thomas Ranney, spotted a man leaving a bank who had red dye billow from his jacket. He started to pursue the man and called 911, describing the suspect, his vehicle and license number. The Westerville dispatcher routed the call to the MetroAlert system, a radio network that connects all 23 public-safety dispatching offices in Franklin County. Officers from several municipalities gave chase until the suspect pulled into a church parking lot and surrendered.

WISCONSIN — Prompted by a request from the police and fire commission, Milwaukee Police Chief Arthur Jones developed a plan for a violent crimes task force that may put up to 300 officers on overtime in crime-ridden areas and cost about \$11.3 million a year. The commission voted in early December to require Jones to develop a plan to cut gun crime within 30 days

but later extended the deadline. Although he replied with a 48-page plan, Jones called the directive an impossible demand and even filed a complaint against the city, calling the directive a racially motivated move. He added that every time there is a violent crime, the police are blamed.

is equal to or better than other departments in the state. The benefits offered by other departments are better, he said, and can lure away candidates.

Former Ravalli County deputy sheriff Ron Gearhart and former dispatcher Christina Leete, who were both fired last year, have been charged with allegedly trying to cover up a domestic disturbance call to another deputy's home.

After DNA evidence cleared a man who spent 15 years in prison for the rape of an 8-year-old girl in Billings, authorities in Montana and Washington are planning to review the work of a forensic scientist who testified in the case. The scientist, Arnold Melnikoff, testified that head and pubic hairs found at the scene were indistinguishable from those of Jimmy Ray Bromgard, the man who was convicted and subsequently cleared in the rape. Melnikoff was director of the Montana crime lab for almost 20 years and for the past 13 years has worked as a forensic scientist for the Washington State Police. One outside expert said that a complete audit of Melnikoff's work is needed and should extend to all hair examinations he conducted or supervised.



COLORADO — The Safe Schools hot line, set up in the wake of the 1999 Columbine High School shootings, only received 22 calls in November. Officials say that the hot line fielded a surge of calls when it was first set up but has not received many since. State officials say they are not letting the low number stand in the way of expanding the idea to include programs aimed at reducing school violence.

NEW MEXICO — Some grocery stores in Gallup have been limiting sales of hairspray to one can a day because people have been using a concoction of water and hairspray known as "Ocean" to get drunk on days when alcohol sales are banned. Sales of liquor are banned in Gallup on Sundays.

OKLAHOMA — The Broken Arrow Police Department recently purchased new laser equipment, including two light direction and range units (LIDARS) and one Quick Map Unit, with money from the department's capital improvement fund and from the state Highway Safety Office. LIDARS are hand-held devices that can be used to measure speeds through reflection. They can also be used with the Quick Map tool as a surveying instrument to render accurate accident reproductions.

The Offender Data Information System, run by the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center, is a little-known system that has been helping local enforcement collect fines and track down offenders. The system, which began as a jail management program for sheriffs, tracks bookings and releases, visitors, medical needs, phone calls, time credits and offender property, as well as allowing entry of mug shots. It also has a warrant check that has so far turned up \$1.8 million in bonds. Grant money for the program is about to run out and

about \$300,000 is needed to cover operating and personnel costs.

TEXAS — Police investigating two home invasions in Edinburg that left six men dead believe the four or five gunmen were after money, guns or drugs. The mother of two of the victims, who was left bound with electrical cord, told police that one of the invaders was wearing clothing that had the word "police" written on it. Officials said there has been a rash of home invasions in which suspects pretend to be police but in those, no victims had been killed.

The son of a convenience store owner in Fort Worth shot an undercover narcotics officer because he thought she was going to rob the store. The officer was one of four undercover agents who bought drugs on the street from a man who then walked into the convenience store. When the officer entered the store she had her gun drawn and was wearing a hood over her head. The officer was in critical but stable condition and the 28-year-old man who shot her was questioned and released.

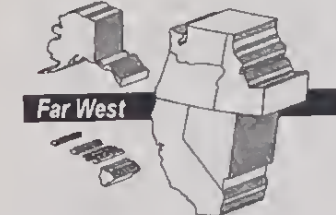
An incident in which an Arlington officer fired a stun gun at a man who then leaped to his death from a highway overpass has prompted an internal police investigation. A police department spokesman said that based on all available information, including news photos and an amateur video, the department believes that the use of the stun gun was appropriate.

After police responded to a domestic disturbance that left four officers wounded and the suspect dead, the San Antonio Police Department plans to review its training procedures. The incident began when the suspect, Jamie Lichtenwalter, went to a Denny's restaurant with his girlfriend to confront a man he had seen with her. The girlfriend told the manager there to call police and Officers David Evans and John Bocko responded. The restaurant video showed that the officers and Lichtenwalter were having a courteous conversation until the girlfriend told the officers that her boyfriend had a gun. Lichtenwalter turned suddenly and hit Bocko in the jaw, breaking it. He then pounced on Evans and beat him, and as it appears on the video, grabbed the gun from Evans's holster. He shot Evans at least three times and then fired at Bocko. When Officers Nathan Murray and Michael Muniz responded to the incident, a fire broke out in the restaurant parking lot in which both Murray and Muniz were shot before Muniz shot and killed Lichtenwalter.

Austin police are trying to determine why the number of homicides in the city last year hit its lowest level since 1976. Twenty-five people were killed in Austin in 2002, an 11-percent decrease from the previous year. Eight of the 25 were killed in domestic violence cases.

UTAH — A man who led South Salt Lake police on a 10-minute car chase after threatening a woman with a knife stabbed himself in the neck in an attempt to escape capture. After police forced his vehicle to a halt, officers surrounded the car and ordered the man out. He ignored their orders and began to stab himself in the neck. One officer broke the passenger side window to get to the man. He was taken to the hospital with multiple stab wounds.

Paula Houston, the nation's only "pom czar" since she was hired two years ago as the Utah's obscenity and pornography complaints ombudsman, has lost her job as part of an effort to cut spending and close a \$117-million state budget gap. Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, who had to trim his budget by \$750,000, said that eliminating Houston's position, which cost \$150,000 a year, was the hardest cut he had to make because she never gave up even though she was persecuted and ridiculed.



ALASKA — The Anchorage Assembly has approved an ordinance that will allow police to charge a \$500 fee after they are called to a residence more than eight times in a calendar year. The measure is aimed at landlords who allow their properties to be used for criminal activities like drug dealing.

CALIFORNIA — The Los Angeles Police Commission has decided that police officers will stop responding to burglar alarms unless they are verified by a security firm or property owner, after finding that 92 percent of the city's 136,000 alarm calls each year are false. Police will still respond to panic alarms, which people must activate.

A 16-year old Stockton boy was arrested for posing as a probation officer and taking 11 other teenagers on an outing. The boy stole uniforms, handcuffs and two county cars from the probation office and then dressed as an officer, drove to the teens' homes and told their parents he was taking them to a miniature golf course as a reward for good behavior. He was stopped after police spotted two carloads of teens driving recklessly down the highway.

Five San Francisco police officers were injured during a chase on Jan. 6 that ended in a three-car crash. A police spokesperson said that the accident occurred when the suspect crashed his vehicle on a freeway entrance ramp. The first police car plowed into the suspect's vehicle before being struck by the second police car. The officers were listed in fair to good condition.

A retired Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy, Richard Dario Comoe, 45, was sentenced Jan. 2 to a year in jail and three years probation for misdemeanor possession of child pornography and felony possession of a machine gun. He must also register as a sex offender.

Former Woodlake police officer Eric Martinez, 26, faces three counts of statutory rape after being accused of having sex with a 17-year-old female police explorer. Martinez resigned halfway through an investigation that was prompted by a tip from an unidentified person. The victim had initially denied any involvement with Martinez but later confirmed their relationship.

Berkeley police are praising a delivery woman from the Meals on Wheels program who led them to a convicted child predator in an alleged plot to purchase a young boy. Kenneth Parnell, a wheel-

chair-bound 71-year-old who was paroled after serving five years for the kidnapping of two young boys, offered the woman \$500 if she could get him a child — specifically a 4-year-old African American boy. The woman reported the incident to police and agreed to go back wearing a recording device. She sold Parnell a phony birth certificate for \$100 and then told him she was going outside for the boy. Instead, a dozen officers, state agents, and DA investigators came back armed with warrants. Parnell now faces life imprisonment.

Baby G's — short for "baby gang-bangers" — are a problem, say San Diego gang detectives investigating a recent spate in violence. So far no arrests have been made in any of the attacks, which include the killings of two women who stopped at a Lincoln Park liquor store on New Year's Day, in which 50 bullets were fired into a crowd of 30 people. In another incident in which a National City woman was shot to death, more than 20 shots were fired. Police say the Baby G's tend to be more violent than older gang members.

The state Victims Compensation and Government Claims Board is struggling to close a deficit that could grow to \$80 million by June 2004. Among a number of proposals being considered are placing a limit on the number of counseling sessions each survivor or victim can receive, and tightening reimbursement rules on moving expenses for domestic violence victims. Victim-witness advocates have voiced concern that the proposed reductions could deprive crime victims of the help they need.

A Superior Court judge in El Cajon has dismissed or reduced charges against four young filmmakers charged with enticing homeless men to batter each other and then selling the videos. The men sold about 300,000 copies of the video "Bumfights" at \$20 each. The judge ruled that prosecutors did not produce evidence to sustain felony charges.

WASHINGTON — The King County sheriff's office may be cited for possible safety breaches in the fatal shooting of deputy Richard Herzog. Investigators from the state Department of Labor and Industries said they were examining Herzog's holster amid concerns over modifications made to it and the fact that the holster was made for a different gun. Herzog was killed June 22 after chasing Keith Matthews, who was naked and under the influence of crack cocaine. Prosecutors say Herzog's gun fell to the ground while he and Matthews were wrestling and Matthews picked up the gun and shot the deputy.

In an effort to track down registered sex offenders, the state patrol is comparing records from the postal service's database of forwarding addresses with offenders' addresses.

King County Sheriff Dave Reichert, who in recent years has had to reduce investigations of vandalism, identity theft, bad checks, prostitution and gangs, as well as programs like DARE and Block Watch, fears that the current budget crisis will roll back years of progress in lowering the crime rate. On top of \$1 million in continuing cuts from previous years, Reichert must figure how to cut an addition \$725,000 from his 2003 budget.



IOWA — The number of homicides statewide rose by only one last year, to 58, but the number of gun-related killings nearly doubled to 34, from 19 in 2001. A statistical analyst with the state Department of Public Safety said that the number of gun homicides in 2001 was unusually low and the increase in 2002 may reflect a return to normal.

The Woodbury County dispatch center is getting a communications system that should help dispatchers map 911 calls and police cars on the same computer screen. The system, which uses maps and satellites to track the location of cars, should improve emergency responses by helping to determine who is closest to the scene of an incident.

MISSOURI — Police in St. Louis recorded 112 homicides in 2002, the lowest total in 36 years and a 24-percent decline from 2001.

Keith B. Baranski of Hopewell, Ohio, was convicted in federal court in St. Louis on Nov. 18 on charges of conspiring with a convicted felon, James Carmi, and Farber Police Chief Jeff Knipp to falsify paperwork to import hundreds of machine guns from Eastern Europe. The scheme to involve police arose because of a 1986 law that only allows a dealer to import the weapons by getting a letter from a police agency that says it wants to see them or buy them. Knipp, who testified against Baranski, pleaded guilty last Feb. 6 to one count of knowingly making false entries on a firearms importation application. He said that he agreed to request a demonstration of dozens of machine guns even though he was not really interested in acquiring them for his three-man department, in exchange for getting a machine gun and cash for himself. Carmi is already serving a 42-month federal prison term after pleading guilty in 2001 to weapons violations and money laundering.

MONTANA — Gregory Daem, 25, was fined \$200 for trying to aid Helena police by pulling his truck in front of an oncoming vehicle that police were chasing. The fleeing minivan slammed into the side of Daem's truck but no one was injured. Prosecutor Bob Wood said Daem was charged with negligent endangerment because his actions endangered himself, the teenagers in the minivan and the police officers.

Butte County Sheriff John Walsh, who heads the city-county police force, wants to reopen a two-year contract that was recently signed because he said the starting pay is too low. In Butte, where there are seven vacant positions and only one new person is coming on board soon, the starting pay, regardless of experience, is about \$12 an hour. After about 18 months, Walsh said, the wage

FOP mourns

The National Fraternal Order of Police is mourning the loss of its leader, after the organization's president, Steve Young, succumbed to cancer on Jan. 9 at the age of 49.

Young, a lieutenant with the Marion, Ohio, Police Department, was elected national president in 2001. At the time he already had a reputation as an innovative leader, having helped to create the Ohio Labor Council, an 8,000-member group that helps improve the effectiveness of labor negotiations within law enforcement agencies. It has been used as a model in 14 states.

"Steve Young spent his career fighting for the rank-and-file member," said **Chuck Canterbury**, the FOP's national vice president, who was named to succeed Young. "In his 11 years as president of the Ohio State Lodge, four years as national vice president and his all-too brief term as national president, Steve woke up each morning and went to work for the citizens of Marion City and the rank-and-file officers in every region of the country. He was as dedicated a man, an officer and a friend as I have ever known."

During his two years at the helm, Young forged a close relationship between the FOP and Washington. The group endorsed President Bush's candidacy in 2000. Later, Bush asked Young to serve on his Homeland Security Advisory Council. Inroads made with Labor Secretary **Elaine L. Chao** resulted in a \$2-million grant for a FOP-run scholarship program for the survivors of fallen officers.

"Though Steve did not complete his term, he leaves a record of accomplishment that future national presidents will find difficult to match," said Canterbury.

Flynn gets it

Ask anyone about former Arlington County, Va., police chief **Edward A. Flynn**, who in December became the Massachusetts state secretary of public safety, and they will say he is a police leader who really gets it — who can make the connection between counterterrorism and community policing. Combining street smarts with a keen intellect, Flynn is seen as one who has always been ahead of the curve.

The 54-year-old Flynn, who began his career in Jersey City, N.J., as a street cop, previously served as chief of two local Massachusetts departments, in Braintree and Chelsea, where he gained a reputation for putting his ideas about community involvement into action.

"I think he's one of the brightest minds in law enforcement by far," said Chelsea Police Capt. **Keith Houghton**, who served under Flynn as a sergeant. "He professionalized our police department with equipment, manpower, salary increases, community policing...the

ultimate professional, a cop's cop," Houghton said in an interview with The Boston Globe. "He's a Jersey City guy, not just an intellect. He knows what's going on on the street."

In 1997, Flynn moved on to the Arlington County force, where he decentralized the department and reached out to other agencies. His officers took a proactive approach toward gang violence by targeting actual members — not conducting sweeps against Latino youths, which would have jeopardized the agency's inroads into immigrant communities. Flynn led the region's emergency response when the Pentagon was attacked. In his new Cabinet-level position in Massachusetts, Flynn will oversee 10,000 employees in some 20 agencies, including the State Police, corrections and the state Office of Commonwealth Security.

Gov. **Mitt Romney** said he recruited Flynn after hearing about him from his transition team. But Flynn had some conditions of his own. He did not want to be thwarted by politically-installed underlings — something that bedeviled previous public safety secretaries.

Romney, according to Flynn, looked him in the eye and said, "If I offer you a job and you take it, you pick your team. I'm not going to saddle you with my patronage." Said Flynn: "For someone to offer that kind of authority to someone they're hiring for expertise, not politics — that's huge... I didn't know how to say no."

Time for a change

The swearing in of a new chief often brings the promise of change, particularly when the agency has been as troubled over the years as the Providence, R.I., Police Department. But the ceremony that transferred power this month to **Dean Esserman**, a nationally recognized law-enforcement leader, was as near to a celebration as such functions get.

Addressing a crowd that included local officers of all ranks, state and city officials, and brass from around the region and the nation, Esserman said he would deliver to them the "best police department in America," and that he would do so "on the shoulders of the men and women of this department."

A Dartmouth-educated lawyer turned police executive, Esserman is renowned for bringing innovative community policing programs to the cities in which he has served. While leading the Stamford, Conn., department, he also served as federal monitor of the troubled Walkill, N.Y., police force.

Esserman is a disciple of former New York City commissioner **William Bratton**, and worked under him as general counsel to the New York City Transit Police. Esserman went on to serve as assistant chief in New Haven, Conn., chief of the Metro-North Railroad Police and, until November 2001, as chief in Stamford. Since, then has been an executive at Thatcher Associates, a corporate investigations firm.

"We're going to see some things that we've never seen before, because we've never had anyone of his caliber this close to us," said East Providence Chief Gary Dias in The Providence Journal-Bulletin.

Esserman's task will be to turn the department around, getting to the bot-

tom of a promotions scandal, and establishing bonds between police and the neighborhoods they serve.

He will be the department's fourth chief in less than two years. He replaces **Guido A. Laorenza**, who got the job in October after acting Mayor **John J. Lombardi** demoted then-Chief **Richard T. Sullivan**. Sullivan had replaced Chief **Urbano Prignano Jr.** in 2001, after Prignano resigned under pressure.

The selection of Esserman was made by Mayor **David N. Cicilline**, who had said in his inauguration speech that he intended to bring in someone of national stature to lead the force. To some observers, the choice is a radical, even controversial one, as Esserman has never served as a street cop.

"My first reaction to having a civilian run the police department was one of skepticism," said Maj. **Dennis Simoneau**. "However, after doing some background homework, I heard some very good things, and now I'm cautiously optimistic and looking forward to working with him."

Some would have preferred to see a Providence veteran picked for the post, but Patrolman **Michael Marcoccio**, the president of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 3, conceded that the agency has had no shortage of turmoil. "Is it time for a change?" he asked. "Yes, it's time for a change."

More with less

After a seven-month search within the ranks of the Rockford, Ill., Police Department, city officials in December promoted Deputy Chief **Steven Pugh** to the top job.

Pugh, 52, was chosen by the Rockford Police and Fire Commission from a field of 11 candidates, including fellow deputy chief **Dominic Iasparro** and assistant deputy chief **Jeff Morris**. He will inherit a department facing possible budget cuts of up to 10 percent, totaling more than \$3 million. There is also the matter of two sexual harassment claims and an investigation into an off-duty officer's firing of a personal

weapon across the street from the mayor's house in December.

But Pugh said he would not be coming in to do "a housecleaning." Rather, he said, he will work to improve what the department already has.

The new chief said he will combine the agency's special units under one commander. The community service unit, the Housing Authority police and tactical squads that patrol the city late at night and in the early morning are the department's way of being proactive, said Pugh. The agency will also fight a rise in gang activity with coordinated drug enforcement efforts and stricter enforcement of the city's juvenile curfew.

The department is going to need its specialty units, said Pugh, because if sweeping budgets cuts are required, "our main concern is going to be to keep the first-responders out there."

"When you call for service, you want a police officer to show up," he told The Rockford Register Star. "All these special units, if they're not available, our call volume is going to go up. Demand is going to be much higher than it is now, so our response times could suffer."

Pugh, a 27-year veteran who has a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University, was named deputy chief of administration in 1997. He succeeds Chief **Jeff Nielsen**, who announced his resignation last April.

Welcome to Miami

He says he will support the officers under his command, but **John Timoney**, Miami's new police chief, also vowed that those who commit criminal acts and misconduct will find no safe haven in the department.

Timoney, the former Philadelphia police commissioner who was sworn in as Miami's top cop on Jan. 6, took command of an agency plagued by scandal. On the very day he was sworn in, jury selection began in the federal corruption trial of 11 members of the Miami force accused of covering up miscon-

duct in five shootings that took the lives of three black men.

As second-in-command under former New York City police commissioner **William Bratton**, Timoney was one of the architects of the Compstat system. He lost out to his former boss in October when Los Angeles officials chose Bratton over Timoney to become that city's new chief.

Timoney retired from the NYPD in 1996 after being passed over for promotion to the top job. Two years later, then-Philadelphia Mayor **Ed Rendell** named Timoney as the city's police commissioner. He left in 2002 for a position with a corporate security firm. During Timoney's tenure, Philadelphia was praised for the way its police force handled security at the 2000 Republican National Convention. Timoney also overhauled the agency's crime statistics bureau after Philadelphia's submissions to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports had to be rejected.

As Miami's chief, the 53-year-old Timoney succeeds **Raul Martinez**, who served in the post for two and a half years. Timoney said he would review policies already put in place by his predecessor to tighten up procedures for the use of deadly force. City Manager **Carlos Gimenez** said that Timoney told officials that he expected to make most of the changes in the department within the first three to six months.

One area where Timoney may run into trouble is with Miami's civilian review board, which has yet to be impaneled and is the first board of its kind in Florida. In Philadelphia, Timoney allegedly told officers not to cooperate with that city's board, calling it an ineffective group.

Another challenge

The Maryland State Police has been an underutilized resource in the state's urban areas, but the new head of the 1,600-trooper force, former Baltimore police commissioner **Edward T. Norris**, pledged last month to strive for better collaboration between the state agency and municipal law enforcement.

Norris, 42, was tapped in December by newly elected Gov. **Robert Ehrlich** as superintendent of the state police. A former New York City police commander, he was recruited to lead the Baltimore department in 2000 by Mayor **Martin O'Malley**. A pension increase for Norris that was approved in July by the city Board of Estimates failed to keep him until 2004.

"We did all we could to recruit, confirm, defend and retain him, but in the end he had to make a decision that made sense for him, his family and his career," O'Malley said in a statement.

About Baltimore, Norris told The Associated Press: "The place is pointed in the right direction. It's saturated with talent at the very top in key positions now. That was my role, and frankly I'm ready for another challenge."

Deputy Commissioner **John McEntee** was named acting police commissioner.

Ehrlich underscored that he was naming Norris to the post as a means of helping Baltimore, not hurting it. "There are ways," said Ehrlich, "that troopers can assist with regard to public safety in Baltimore city and those ways have not been maximized."



Steven Pugh (r.) is congratulated by his predecessor, **Jeff Nielsen**, following his appointment as the new chief in Rockford, Ill.

Study links use of force to suspect's backtalk

Mouthing off to a police officer is not illegal, but it can be hazardous to your health, according to a new study sponsored by the National Institute of Justice, which found that when force is used during an arrest, it was more likely to have been prompted by a suspect's uncivil demeanor or resistance than by such characteristics as race, gender or age.

In "Characteristics Associated with the Prevalence and Severity of Force Used by the Police," published in the December issue of *Justice Quarterly*, researchers used officer self-reports about 7,512 adult arrests in Charlotte, N.C., Colorado Springs, Dallas, and the city and county of San Diego to determine a base rate of force, and which factors were consistently present when an arrest became physical.

The study's authors — Joel H. Garner of the Joint Centers for Justice Studies, and Christopher D. Maxwell and Cedric Heraux, both of Michigan State University — measured force that they defined as involving the use of any weapon or weaponless tactic, such as hitting, kicking, grabbing, and any severe restraint, such as leg cuffs. When force was used, they found, it typically

involved grabbing — in 7.8 percent of arrests. In only 2.1 percent of arrests was a firearm, baton, chemical agent, flashlight or other weapon used. A chemical agent was used most frequently, in 1.1 percent of the cases.

Force occurs in less than one-sixth of all adult custody arrests. When the arrest is measured for the severity of force involved, said the study, the level is predominantly on the low-end of the scale.

"The first question everybody asks is not how much force is used, but if the force varies by race," Garner said in an interview with *Law Enforcement News*. "The implication of that is if the cops beat up 50 percent of the people, and 50 percent of the whites, and 50 percent of the blacks, and 50 percent of the Hispanics, that would be okay because there would be no difference by race, as opposed to if they beat up 1 percent of the whites and 2 percent of the blacks. Then there would be this big race effect," he said.

But the characteristics most associated with police use of force was resistance by the suspect, demeanor, and "to a lesser extent," race. This was consistent across the diverse samples, juris-

dictions, measures and analyses the study drew upon.

According to Garner and his colleagues, the odds that police would use force increased by a factor of 19 when suspects resisted physically. Demeanor was the second most consistent characteristic, with the likelihood of an officer using physical force increasing by a factor of 2.5 when a suspect was antagonistic but not physical. When suspects were uncivil to police, the odds of force being used in their arrest increased by 163 percent, the study found.

"We try to make a distinction between resistance and demeanor," said Garner. "Assuming we've measured demeanor correctly, and assuming we've measured suspect resistance correctly, resistance is a more appropriate, more legitimate consideration than demeanor," he said. "The distinction is important. We don't know what demeanor is — looking cross-eyed? Cursing? There is nothing illegal about cursing at an officer."

For their report, the authors drew upon research from 15 earlier use-of-force studies. What was surprising, said Garner, was how each used different ways of measuring use of force — in-

cluding his own study.

"[It] suggests that that police use of force is a complex issue and not a simple 'we all know exactly what it is,'" said Garner. "One study in New York City measured possession of a firearm as suspect resistance. In Colorado Springs and Dallas, it's perfectly legal for people to carry firearms. There are these jurisdictional issues of suspect resistance and police use of force."

Unlike previous studies, which examined only one or two jurisdictions, and within those, only high-crime shifts and precincts, Garner noted that he and his colleagues collected data from each precinct and shift in the six urban jurisdictions they chose as sites. During 1996 and 1997, they recorded and grouped more than 50 potential predictors of force into six domains, including the arrest situation, its location, police mobilization, officer characteristics, suspect characteristics and combinations of officer and suspect characteristics.

In addition to suspect resistance, the authors found other characteristics that increased the likelihood of force being used. They included a suspect's alcohol impairment; gang involvement, a

reputation for carrying weapons or being combative; a prior arrest for a violent offense; the presence of bystanders; an increased police presence, male officers; male suspects; and the use of "contact and cover" arrest tactics.

The age of the suspect was found to play virtually no role in the use of force. On the other hand, Garner noted, the age of the officer is significant. Younger officers, male officers and Hispanic officers tended to use more force than older or female officers. Force is most often used in these cases against male suspects.

"I think people have tended to find that police use of force is reduced as officers get older," said Garner. "We have controlled for suspect resistance, all these characteristics, and still, the age of the officer and the sex of the officer influences the amount of force used."

Something that has not been given much study in the past, Garner noted, is the relationship between police mobilization and an increased use of force. Lesser amounts of force were used when the suspect was already in custody, and increased amounts if the officer called for back up, or if there were more officers on the scene. And, in a possible nod to the "adrenaline factor," more force was also used if the officers used lights and sirens when they responded to the call.

Bystanders also played a role in use of force, said the study. "We also found that police used less force when there were no bystanders," said the authors. "The presence of bystanders increases the amount of force used by the police; if the bystanders are strangers to the suspect, the severity of the force increases."

'Smart-gun' laws in NJ, Md., may not offer much bang for the buck

Two pieces of gun legislation said to be the first of their kind in the nation were recently enacted, but neither New Jersey's new smart-gun law nor Maryland's ban on the sale of handguns that lack internal safety locks appear likely to have an impact any time soon.

Under legislation signed by New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey in December, all handguns sold will be required to contain smart-gun technology, beginning three years after a prototype is deemed safe and commercially viable by the state attorney general. A separate decision will be made in the case of law enforcement officers, who are currently exempt from the law.

The New Jersey Institute of Technology, which is developing the prototype, is approximately two years away from a model, officials there say. Some \$4 million to \$5 million in additional funding has not yet been approved.

The technology is intended to make it virtually impossible for someone other than the gun's owner to fire the weapon. At a gun shop or at shooting ranges, owners could have their grip programmed using sensors on the pistol's handle. A microchip would remember the grip, and would be able to tell when someone else was holding the gun. In that case, it would not fire.

"This is common-sense legislation," said McGreevey. "There are safety regulations on cars, on toys. It's clearly time we have safety regulations on handguns."

But opponents of the law argue that it makes little sense, with the necessary technology still years away. Since 1993, the gun manufacturer Smith & Wesson has spent \$5 million on development. Last year, it was awarded a \$1.7-million federal grant.

Moreover, critics say, no technology is foolproof. "Anyone who has a computer knows how many times it crashes," said Nancy Ross, spokeswoman for the Association of New Jer-

sey Rifle and Pistol Clubs.

In Maryland, gun-control advocates and gun dealers are at odds over the bill, which was passed three years ago and went into effect on Jan. 1, prohibiting the sale of any firearm that does not come with an integrated or internal locking mechanism. That feature, say dealers, is present in only approximately 25 percent of handguns on the market, and usually only the more expensive types.

The state's Handgun Roster Board ruled in September that new handguns could be bought without integral locks if purchasers pay dealers to retrofit them. This is a problem, however, because many dealers do not want to expose themselves to any potential liability from retrofitting the weapons.

At present, they can sell used and new handguns without integral locks manufactured before 2003. But those supplies, they say, will soon run out.

Prior to the law, handgun owners only had to buy external locks that could be attached to the trigger.

"There are firearms models that aren't going to be available, simple as that," Sanford Abrams, the owner of Valley Gun in Parkville and vice president of the Maryland Licensed Firearms Dealers Association, told *The Baltimore Sun*.

The legislation was part of a major gun safety package pushed in 2000 by then-Gov. Parris N. Glendening. Supporters claimed it would reduce accidental shootings, particularly those involving children. At the time, it was considered a compromise, since Glendening had wanted a bill similar to the one just signed by McGreevey, requiring personalized handgun locks and other high-tech tools.

Gun-control advocates dismissed fears by dealers that business would be hurt by the new law. After no more than

a "bump in the road," said Delegate Ann Marie Doory, a Baltimore Democrat, legal models would quickly become available.

"It used to be that gun manufacturers had little interest in the safety of their products," said Stephen Teret, director of the Center for Law and the Public's Health at Johns Hopkins University. "Now, a number are designing features they never did before."

But there remains the possibility that Glendening's successor, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, a Republican, will delay or weaken the law. During his campaign, Ehrlich said he would review the state's gun laws as to their effectiveness.

Said Chad Ramsey, Eastern regional director for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence: "We're a concerned about all the gun laws in Maryland now that Ehrlich holds the reins, but there's a strong legislature in there, and the people in Maryland are in favor of this."

Weight of the law lightens up for Connecticut juveniles

Adolescents in West Hartford, Conn., who commit minor offenses may not be feeling the full weight of the law, but neither are they getting away with their crimes, under a four-year-old program that offers teenagers an alternative to juvenile court.

The Juvenile Review Board was created in 1999 by a coalition of public and private social service agencies. Last year, it reviewed the cases of 324 youngsters referred by police. That figure is up from 285 in 2001, but Lieut. Jack Casey contends that officers are now more inclined to send youngsters there than they were in the past.

"It's good in that we had a lot of kids who were falling through the cracks," he told *Law Enforcement*

News. "The juvenile justice system is so overwhelmed down here that they're really not getting any attention" when they commit minor crimes.

One-quarter of those arrested and referred to the board in 2002 were repeat offenders, as compared to 20 percent the previous year. In 2000, after its first full year, 288 teenagers came under the panel's review; 23 percent of those were recidivists.

The board only sees first-time offenders under the age of 16. They must acknowledge their guilt and take responsibility for their actions. While punishments vary, they frequently include apologizing to the victim. In one case, a shoplifter videotaped interviews with other teenagers who were caught

red-handed and asked them why they stole. The tape was shown to local merchants as a means of helping them understand what went on in the mind of a young lawbreaker.

The board has been fairly effective, noted Casey. Officers, he said, have found more punishment and accountability meted out by the panel than has been the case with juvenile court.

"For us, it's just another avenue to funnel the kids," said Casey. "It has a positive effect on recidivism, so that we're not dealing with the same kids over and over, the same school, the same house. Some of the programs they're putting the kids into are positively affecting the kids, so it's having a positive impact on a lot of areas."

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Traffic-stop data fails to clear up profiling question

Analyses of data collected by municipal police in Massachusetts and by troopers in Washington state have found a disparity between the number of minority drivers and the number of whites subjected to discretionary searches, but researchers say the findings still do not definitively link the disproportion to racially-biased policing tactics.

Both The Boston Globe and The Seattle Times released reports this month showing that minorities are searched at a rate ranging from two to two and a half times that for whites. Moreover, when whites are searched, they were found more likely than either blacks or Hispanics to be carrying contraband.

Among the findings by The Globe, 2.4 percent of Hispanic drivers who received tickets were subjected to searches, followed by 2.3 percent of blacks. Only 1.6 percent of whites were searched. Whites were charged with drugs 16 percent of the time when searched, compared with 12 percent of blacks, the analysis noted, and 10 percent of Hispanics. In addition, blacks and Hispanics driving new cars were searched more often than were whites driving new vehicles.

The analysis also found that minorities were ticketed at about twice the rate of their proportion of the population. Blacks, who make up 4.6 percent of Massachusetts' driving-age population, received 10 percent of citations; Hispanics, who are 5.6 percent of the population, were given 9.6 percent of tickets. Even in their hometowns, the analysis said, blacks received more citations. Forty-five communities ticketed black residents at a rate four times their share of the census.

The study looked at 750,000 tickets issued between April 2001 and November 2002 by 367 police agencies.

According to Lorie Fridell, a criminologist and director of research at the Police Executive Research Forum, it is the "hit rate," or the number of searches conducted that turn up contraband, that is significant.

"In terms of the percent of who is searched, it's like stop data," she told Law Enforcement News. "We can show disparity, but we can't determine the cause of the disparity. Certainly, the



high proportion of people stopped maybe adds something around the edges, but as a social scientist, it would be the hit rate that would be more telling than the proportions that were searched."

It could be that while no bias was involved in the decision to make the stop, there was discrimination in the decision to conduct a search, she agreed. But even if bias were involved, she noted, the evidence of that would come from the number of searches in which drugs or other contraband was seized.

"We can show disparity, but we can't pinpoint the cause," Fridell told LEN. "What the hit rate does is give us indirect evidence of different standards being applied to the decision to search."

Under Massachusetts' law, discrimination is illegal whether or not it was intentional.

According to Fridell, and even the state's po-

lice chiefs, the data that was collected does not give very many details as to the nature of the stop. There is no way to know whether the search was based on probable cause, with the driver's consent, or whether contraband other than drugs was found in the vehicle.

The state's use of drug charges is a poor choice as a measure of hits, said Fridell. It is conceivable that when whites were searched, guns were found. But these did not get counted as hits in Massachusetts, "only the ones that were for drugs," she said. "It's a proxy for a hit rate."

Edward A. Flynn, the state's new public safety secretary, said he would form a task force that included minority community leaders, but that before allowing police to collect more information about the circumstances of each traffic stop, he would await the results of a study due out this

spring by Northeastern University on the same information.

The apparent racial disparities indicated by The Globe's analysis, Flynn told the newspaper, raised an issue "of grave concern to the police industry," although it is currently impossible to know whether it was caused by bias. In some cases, police departments had large amounts of tickets without the race of the motorist filled in. Flynn said he would send monthly reports to departments, noting the number of tickets without the required data.

"Perception is more important than the numbers," Flynn said. "If we want the community to trust us, we have to deal with the perception."

In Washington, an analysis of 1.7 million traffic stops made by state police over a 27-month period by both The Times and researchers at Washington State University revealed it to be one of just handful of agencies that, according to the numbers, pulled over minority and white drivers in equal numbers.

Further study, however, showed that minorities were searched at more than twice the rate that whites were, even though whites were more often found with contraband. After a search, police seized evidence found in the cars of white drivers 30 percent of the time as compared to 21 percent of the time for minorities. Broken down for discretionary stops, whites were found with contraband 20.5 percent of the time, compared to 18 percent for blacks and Latinos.

Overall, the chance of being searched once pulled over was found to be one in 37. In some regions, such as the Yakima area, minorities were found to be searched five times as often as whites.

It was not evident, said Fridell, whether the findings were based on hit rates resulting from low-discretion or high-discretion searches.

"I think it's pretty much the policy of every department that if you're taken into custody, that [police] will conduct a search," she said. "It's based on evidence, not on the officer's discretion. But if we look at where the officers have discretion — consent searches, probable-cause searches — I would like to see the Washington data calculated on those, and if there was a similar outcome, we'd certainly find a red flag."

Figures were also released in January from the Los Angeles Police Department, which found that while officers stop blacks, whites and Hispanics at rates proportional to their shares of the jurisdiction's population, minorities were searched at a higher rate.

In Los Angeles, only 7 percent of whites were asked to step out of their cars after being stopped, compared to 22 percent of Latinos and 22 percent of blacks. Blacks, according to the data, were then patted down 67 percent of the time, and 85 percent were subjected to a search of their person, car, residence or belongings. Fifty-five percent of Hispanics were frisked, and 84 percent were searched. Whites, on the other hand, were frisked 50 percent of the time, and searched in 71 percent of those cases.

"It's easy to measure the number of people who have been stopped and ticketed. But what's harder... is then drawing conclusions about what police behavior is disproportionate," said Jack Riley, director of the Rand Institute's public safety and justice program.

According to Riley, census figures are not an effective way to determine a baseline against which traffic stops can be measured. His comments, made in an interview with The Los Angeles Times, were similar to those expressed by Fridell.

Data collection, Fridell said, is not necessary for every department, and agencies should not make it the centerpiece of their response to racially-biased policing. In nine out of 10 cases, conclusions about racial bias are drawn from population data that does not show the cause of the disparities.

"All the census benchmarking is equivalent to the editorials you read every now and then, that as soon as the 10 commandments came off the schoolhouse walls, crime went up," said Fridell. "It's really no different in terms of not looking at alternative causal factors."

Are some cops too aggressive? Sioux Falls wants a clearer picture.

Prompted by a report which suggested that some officers act too aggressively when arresting suspects, officials in Sioux Falls, S.D., ordered changes that will make the police department's operations more transparent, particularly its disciplinary actions.

According to an analysis by The Sioux Falls Argus Leader in December, seven of the more than 200 officers on the force accounted for over one-quarter of all cases that involved resisting arrest or aggravated assault on a police officer between 1997 and 2001. Three worked primarily on the night shift, the other four on rotating day and night assignments.

All of the officers were involved in 15 to 29 cases, as much as 12 times the departmental average. Court records showed that most officers averaged just 2.3 such arrests. And of the 138 cases they were involved in, only six went to trial. Others were either dismissed or reduced as part of a plea agreement.

Mayor Dave Munson said in January that he would ask a team of criminal justice experts from Washington State University to evaluate the agency. A Justice Department grant will cover the cost of the assessment, he told the City Council.

"If we have deficiencies down there, I want to know about it," said Munson. "The integrity of the police department is at stake. I think they're a good group of people."

In addition, Munson has ordered the release of information on disciplinary actions against officers — something that has never before been done. The city's human resource director will report to the public when an officer is disciplined for poor performance, conduct unbecoming an officer, or using excessive force. The information will be included in the department's annual report. From 2000 to 2002, there were 70 actions taken in those areas, Munson said.

Other plans include modifying the department's method of handling citizen complaints. All internal investigations will be documented in writing, and once completed, will be reviewed by Police Chief Clark Quiring and the city attorney's office. Under current practice, complaints are only investigated if found by police to have a "factual basis." They are then sent to the Internal Affairs Unit for further investigation.

"I told the chief every complaint will be tracked, so we know exactly what we have," said Munson.

When The Argus Leader's article was first published, both Munson and Quiring said no scrutiny in training or procedures was necessary.

"I come from the school of thought, seriously, for law enforcement officers, there's enough things that happen," Munson said in a Dec. 15 interview with the newspaper. "They don't go out and try to create things. I'm sure all police officers like to have a peaceful society, I

really do think."

But after reviewing Quiring's positions on openness and the agency's complaints policy, Munson ordered the changes.

The department will also hire a consultant to instruct officers on diversity issues. It will also create a Web site that will post arrest numbers by shift, as well as other information, including calls made, warrants served, parking tickets issued and juvenile contacts made. Use-of-force statistics will also be made available on the site, categorized by type of force, the month, day of the week, and the officer's shift, plus the official findings.

Police pursuits will be posted, too, as will information on firearms discharges by police, including the total number of incidents, type of weapons and reasons.

Officials are still reviewing the plan of releasing information from the department's training manual. Munson said he would not make public any information that could endanger officers, and he directed Quiring to remove any "strategic information" from the policy manual. After the review, which should be completed by the end of March, the agency's general policies and procedures will be placed on the city's Web site.

"I think it's great," Quiring said about the changes. "I've been working on it with the mayor for three to four weeks. We're moving in the right direction."

Lights, camera, interrogation...

DC prepares to videotape violent-felony suspects

Police in Washington, D.C., will soon be required by law to videotape the interrogations of individuals suspected of having committed violent offenses, under the provisions of a bill enacted by the District Council.

Although video and audio taping is used extensively by investigators, it is only very recently that jurisdictions have considered following Minnesota's lead in making it law.

The Minnesota Supreme Court ruled nearly a decade ago that all police interrogations had to be taped in their entirety whenever possible. Virtually all of the state's agencies, however, rely on audio tape, noted Mankato Public Safety Director James Franklin.

"That's the method used 99 percent of the time," he told Law Enforcement News. "It takes less time and less space than video. Obviously, there is a severe deterrent when you're holding a camera in someone's face and expecting them to have a statement and other kinds of things. The handheld recording method, we've made it work."

D.C. council member Kathy Patterson told The Washington Post that research into jurisdictions where electronic recording is used has shown it to be a help to police. "It's important to protect police officers and promote effective investigations," she said. "When you talk to good detectives, they say it's a good tool."

The bill, which is awaiting mayoral approval, would give Chief Charles H. Ramsey six months to develop standards for the recording of interviews. These would include when and how to inform suspects of their right to refuse being taped.

Electronic recording of confessions in major cases is already a requirement at the Metropolitan Police Department, and the videotaping of interrogations routine, according to the agency. The

bill calls for all videotaping to be done within the confines of an interview room equipped with recording gear.

Prior to the bill's passage in December, Ramsey had told The Post that he wanted to clarify what it meant by "interrogation." He did not want police, he said, required to tape every interview they conducted.

"I think these things need to be done very carefully," said Ramsey. "I think certain procedures just shouldn't be legislated. I don't know what the impetus of this was, but I think the council needs to look very carefully at this."

Ramsey said he was not concerned about the funding, unless the council intended the department to record each interrogation. Each of the agency's seven precincts already contains an interview room with recording equipment.

Most police agencies have some misgivings, but they ultimately find recording interviews to be a useful policy, said Kankakee, Ill., Chief Mike Kinkade, whose agency has been videotaping interrogations since 1996 and records approximately 60 to 70 a year.

"It's the best evidence you can have," he told LEN. "It hasn't been a hindrance at all." The only hindrance might be having to get permission, which he said is required by state law. Often, suspects will confess or incriminate themselves off-camera. There is no mandate, however, which requires that such statements be recorded to be admissible, said Kinkade.

A proposal along those lines was scratched from the D.C. legislation as being too restrictive.

"After the investigators became familiar with [videotaping] and more relaxed with it, and overcame some of the apprehension, they became very effective with it," Kinkade said.



In a scene likely to be replicated soon in Washington, D.C., Detective Robert Gibbs of the Kansas City, Mo., police watches the interrogation of a murder suspect on a video monitor.

Kankakee County law enforcers began tape-recording at about the same time as the city police department. "I'm a convert," said Ken McCabe, chief investigator for the county sheriff's department, which also records every felony interrogation, as well as nonviolent burglaries, as often as it can.

In the past six years, the agency has videotaped 636 interrogations. No statements have ever been suppressed.

"When they first started this, I thought they were nuts," McCabe told The Chicago Daily Herald. "I thought there was no way a guy was going to cooperate if he knew he was being taped. Now, I wouldn't do it any other way."

Franklin, the Mankato public safety head, said he considers the taping a sad reminder of just how far the system has strayed from its core mission of seeking justice and righting wrongs. Instead, it pits

one side against the other, each only concerned with winning, he said.

"It boils down to a simple issue: lack of the public trust and confidence in law enforcement," he told LEN. "That's simply a result of primarily two things. One is the court system and defense attorneys and their continued search to get their clients off for no reason.... The second is the law enforcement profession itself, which, because of its inability to screen and keep the highest of ethics, has helped bring about some of its own demise with its own behavior, and the lack of integrity in some departments."

Having audiotapes, he added, has helped to "hush up" the defense attorneys who claim their clients were coerced into making a statement.

"Until we want to quote-unquote seek justice for all, the system will continue to deteriorate," Franklin said.

Game over:

Bias may guide shoot/don't shoot decisions

Granted, it was just a video-game scenario that researchers were studying, but when players were asked to make on-the-spot decisions as to whether white or black male characters in the game were armed, people were more likely to mistakenly conclude that the blacks were armed, and to shoot them.

Two new studies surmise that unconscious biases instilled by factors such as the news media, advertising or other cultural influences are behind the results, rather than racial prejudice.

In one study, conducted by Dr. Bemadette Park, a professor of psychology at the University of Colorado at Boulder, college students and adults recruited from the Denver area were asked to quickly press one button to "shoot" whomever they thought was armed while viewing a video game in which photographs of men standing or crouching against different backgrounds were shown on the screen. Some of the characters had guns, while others held objects such as cell phones, aluminum cans, wallets and cameras. The study participants could press another button if they thought the person was not dangerous.

According to Park's findings, more errors were made when players were confronted with the images of black men carrying objects than when faced with similarly unarmed white men. Participants, she said, were also quicker to fire on black men with guns than on white men with guns.

"The threshold to decide to shoot is set lower for African-Americans than for whites," Park told The New York

Times. Her study was published in the December issue of The Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.

Another researcher, Dr. Anthony G. Greenwald, a psychologist at the University of Washington, said findings he and two colleagues will publish in 2004 confirm and extend Park's results.

College students in his study were asked to play the role of police officers in a virtual reality game in which armed and unarmed men appear from behind a trash bin. Some of the men were criminals, some officers and some citizens, the participants were told. When they saw an armed criminal, they were to shoot. An officer could be saved by pressing a button, and when they saw citizens who held harmless objects such as flashlights, they were to do nothing. Their responses were strictly timed.

"In the absence of doing research directly on police, my assumption is that attitudes and stereotypes of police are like those of most other people in this society," Greenwald told Law Enforcement News. "What that means is we find people do have automatic reactions, often that they're not aware of, often that they'd rather not have, that are, in a sense, discriminatory because they're most negative toward various stigmatized groups, than toward the majority, the white culture in America."

Police could benefit from having the opportunity to explore their own beliefs at the "level that lies just below conscious awareness," said Greenwald. He suggested a number of tests that could be found on the Southern Poverty Law Center's home page at www.tolerance.org/hidden_bias/.

"There are ones that show typical reactions, and pretty reliably," he noted. "There's a race test done either with adults or kids, a weapons test that involves associating a racial group with weapons."

The tests, said Greenwald, can be used for training purposes because they can represent a first step in identifying biases. "It's important not to be reluctant to explore this," he said. "I definitely do not think performance on this test is something that should be used for selecting or, worse, disciplining police officers. Mainly because I expect many people to show the patterns the majority of people in this culture show — and that I show, and most of the people doing research on this show."

Following killing, Virginia cracks down on bounty hunters with criminal records

Spurred by an incident last year in which a bounty hunter mistakenly shot and killed a Mexican immigrant, the Virginia State Crime Commission is prepared to recommend that any individual with a felony record be barred from becoming a bounty hunter, and that renewable national criminal background checks be conducted every two years on bail bondsmen.

In a preliminary report released in January, based on a two-year study that is expected to be completed by the end of 2003, the commission examined legislation enacted or proposed in other states. Its recommendations were due to be presented to the state General

Assembly this month.

On Christmas Eve, a bounty hunter with a criminal record, 26-year-old James Howard Dickerson, shot and killed a Mexican immigrant whom he mistook for a fugitive. Richmond police arrested Dickerson and charged him with second-degree murder in the death of 32-year-old Roberto Martinez, a construction worker who spoke no English.

Dickerson, who is being held without bond, told police he had acted in self-defense. Six witnesses, however, said the victim was unarmed and the machete the defendant said Martinez wielded has not been found.

In Virginia, as in other states, there

are virtually no limits to the power of bounty hunters. All it takes for even a convicted criminal to become one is to find a bail bondsman looking for a fugitive, said Peter Tribble Jr., a staff lawyer for the commission.

While bounty hunters are not licensed, bail bondsmen are. Of the 34,233 bail bondsmen in Virginia, 464 have criminal records in the state. Federal law bars the commission from investigating whether the bondsmen also have records in other states.

"It's not yet clear that shooter bias actually exists among officers," said the study. "Examining these sorts of effects in a sample of police officers is of the utmost importance."

"It's up to each state as to how they do it," Tribble told The New York Times. "At this point, Virginia effectively doesn't have any laws."

DC number-crunching takes bite out of crime

There were about 500 fewer aggravated assaults in Washington, D.C., in 2001 than previously believed — a sharp decrease brought about after the Metropolitan Police Department reclassified hundreds of simple assaults that had been erroneously entered in a database compiled for submission to the FBI Uniform Crime Reports.

According to Sampson Annan, the police department's director of research and resource development, the review was prompted by a 21-percent spike in the aggravated assault category. Aggravated assaults, which had been on the decline from 1993 to 2000, surged by 1,000 incidents in 2001.

Since the reclassifications, the number of incidents fell from 5,568 to 5,003. Even with the change, however, the city still recorded a 10.9-percent increase in the number of aggravated assaults compared to 2000.

The corrections were made before the agency had to send in its official data for the UCR, Annan told Law Enforcement News. He said his unit found the discrepancy while the information was still in the preliminary stage.

"It has to be a monthly submission, and unfortunately for our department, we've had problems in the timely processing of official data," said Annan. Each year, the FBI sends what it calls a returning card where it shows the numbers reported for each month and asked that they be reviewed. They will often alert departments to increases and encourage that officials take a look at them before submitting the figures as final, he said.

In December, the police department wrote to FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division asking for advice on how to distinguish between and properly classify simple and aggravated assaults. The department sent the bureau 10 separate scenarios to rule on.

According to the UCR Handbook, an aggravated assault is when one person inflicts severe bodily injury upon another, often with the use of a weapon likely to produce death or great harm. When hands, fists or feet are used, the seriousness of the injury is the determining factor in establishing whether an assault is aggravated or simple, the handbook notes. It is the judgment of the investigating officer that determines the extent of the injury.

In virtually all of the cases, the FBI agreed with the MPD's opinion that the offenses should be reclassified as simple assaults. In one of the samples, a victim was hit about the face and head with his own shoe after a verbal altercation. While the bureau supported the MPD's recommendation, it said police needed to decide if the shoe could have caused serious injury.

Another case involved a woman who was kicked by a man in the right thigh and buttocks. That was reclassified as a simple assault, as was a domestic violence dispute in which a female victim was slammed into a wall, kicked in the stomach and struck about the face with a closed fist. The injuries included redness to the side of the face; the victim refused treatment.

One case in which the FBI did not agree with the MPD's recommendation involved choking. "This scenario would be classified as an aggravated assault because choking could and probably would result in serious personal injury," said the letter.

According to Annan, many of the misclassifications could be traced back to a single individual. Retraining has been provided, he said.

"We have provided the guidelines we developed to the manager of the records division," said Annan. "I believe she said they have already retrained the individuals who are responsible for the reclassification."

NYPD sticks to its guns on park jogger verdicts

The five men whose guilty verdicts in the Central Park jogger assault were overturned by a judge last month "most likely" were involved in the 1989 attack, according to a three-member panel commissioned by the New York City Police Department. The panel rejected prosecutors' contentions that the victim was probably attacked by a lone assailant.

The 43-page report by Jules Martin and Michael Armstrong, two prominent attorneys, and Stephen L. Hammerman, the deputy police commissioner for legal affairs, agreed that the DNA evidence linked Matias Reyes, a convicted killer and serial rapist, to the rape was sufficient grounds for Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Charles Tejada to overthrow the convictions against Kevin Richardson, Yusef Salaam, Antron McCray, Kharey Wise and Raymond Santana. Nonetheless, the report said, the new evidence still did not exonerate them.

The "most likely" scenario on the night of April 19, 1989, was that the youths sexually assaulted the jogger, and Reyes either joined in the attack or raped the woman later, said the panel.

"We're not saying we're able to look back 13 years later and say definitively this is what happened," Armstrong told The New York Times. "What we can say is that looking at the statements made by the defendants at the time, and looking at other statements made by other people, and other evidence, there is an alternative scenario to the one that Reyes acted by himself, and we are inclined to think that is the more persuasive one."

The report to Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly also found no misconduct on the part of investigators. Detectives followed the rules requiring that a parent or guardian sit in on the interviews, and there was no evidence that the confessions had been obtained through the use of trickery or deceit. Even as it made recommendations for improving procedures surrounding complicated investigations, the report made no note about taping all inter-

played in the attack were too weak to stand up in light of the new evidence. No physical evidence had linked them to the rape. The jogger, who was in a coma for 12 days, awoke with no memory of the assault.

The ruling had infuriated police officials, who contended that Tejada ruled without hearing all of the evidence. An appellate judge denied a motion to block the decision brought by a group of retired detectives who had been in-



New York Supreme Court Justice Charles Tejada dismisses the convictions of five men for the 1989 beating and rape of a jogger in Central Park. The NYPD maintains that the five played a part in the crime. (Reuters)

views with minors, a suggestion that has been made by law enforcement experts.

Judge Tejada, in a ruling handed down on Dec. 19, said the convictions of the five men, who were all teenagers at the time of the attack, were tainted by Reyes's confession. Reyes had told authorities that he had acted alone when he raped and beat the victim. A DNA sample extracted from semen found at the scene linked him to the crime.

Tejada also said that the statements made by the five as to the roles they

played in the original case.

According to Kelly and other officials, the Manhattan District Attorney's office had restricted access to all of the evidence. In its report, the three-member panel stated that prosecutors had refused to turn over results of DNA tests and transcripts of interviews with Reyes. Two prison inmates who could have cast doubt on Reyes' claims to have been the sole attacker were not allowed to speak with investigators, the panel noted.

With prisons packed, Michigan ends mandatory minimums for druggies

Once a state with among the nation's harshest sentencing guidelines for convicted drug offenders, Michigan has altered course dramatically by eliminating mandatory minimum sentences in hopes of reducing a skyrocketing prison population.

Under legislation signed by outgoing Gov. John Engler on Dec. 28, judges may now hand down sentences of up to 20 years. The law, which takes effect on March 1, will also replace lifetime probation for the lowest-level offenders with a five-year probation term. Some prisoners will also be eligible for earlier parole under the new statute. At present, some 4,000 inmates must report to state parole officers for the rest of their lives.

Although critics of the sentencing guidelines have focused on their unfairness, their repeal was most likely hastened by a \$1.5-billion general fund deficit in the upcoming fiscal year. Michigan spends \$1.4 billion on its prison population, according to Russ Marlan, a spokesman for the Department of Corrections.

While it is not known how many of the state's 49,296 inmates will be affected by the law, an analysis by the

nonpartisan Senate Fiscal Agency estimates that as many as 286 beds could open after five years. The state's prisons are just 708 inmates away from their capacity of 50,004, Marlan told The Associated Press.

Michigan's mandatory minimums were created in 1978 at the time when the state was struggling to combat a drug trafficking problem. Former Gov. William Milliken signed legislation that included the "650 lifer law," a bill that mandated life imprisonment without parole for offenders convicted of delivering more than 650 grams — or 1.4 pounds — of heroin or cocaine.

In 1987, a law was enacted mandating that drug sentences be served consecutively to any other term of imprisonment. The "lifer law" was upheld in 1991 by the U.S. Supreme Court, but the Michigan Supreme Court struck down the mandatory life provision for drug possession the following year, making parole a possibility. It left intact the sentence for delivery and intent.

Then in 1998, the law was modified so that convicts could apply for parole after 20 years, or as early as 15 years if they had no prior felony convictions

and had cooperated with authorities.

"The time had come to make the change," David Morse, the Livingston County prosecutor, told The AP. "The idea of stiff severe penalties for drug kingpins was a problem because we weren't getting those kingpins. We were getting people who were carrying on behalf of kingpins."

The Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan endorsed the bills, although the effort was spearheaded by Families Against Mandatory Minimums, a nonprofit group.

According to Laura Sager, the group's executive director, states including Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina and New Jersey are also considering revising their mandatory minimum sentences.

"There are the classic predators, who do it for profit, and there are the mules that are selling to help their own addiction," said Eaton County District Judge Harvey Hoffman, who complained that the sentencing guidelines restricted judges' discretion. "As a judge, it's our job to look at people and circumstances and determine who is the predator and who is the prey."

Flag flap has Utah cop seeing red, white & blue

Enraged by a supervisor who told him that the two American flag stickers he had placed on his patrol car might offend the public, a Salt Lake City police officer drummed up a groundswell of support in January when he shared the incident with colleagues via email.

In a widely circulated message, Officer Thomas Potter wrote: "Quietly I stood, biting my tongue as I was grilled in a despicable tone and questioned who had authorized those stickers. I'm not writing to get your sympathy. I don't care what you believe in, whom you voted for, how you feel about the military or what you think about me. But the next time you look at the flag I demand you show some respect. For hundreds of years, thousands of families have lost their brothers, fathers, husbands and sons who died protecting it."

An Army Reservist whose unit shipped out this month, Potter would

not reveal who ordered him to take the flags off the vehicle. The commander was a "jerk," but Potter did not want to ruin his career, he told The Associated Press. Potter removed the stickers.

Capt. Scott Atkinson said he has received at least 40 emails in support of the patriotic display. While bumper stickers are prohibited on Salt Lake City police vehicles, flags have been increasingly common since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. If possible, the Potter incident has spurred an even greater show of patriotism, said Atkinson.

"I've seen police cars throughout the valley with American flag stickers," Officer Derek Dimond told The Deseret News, adding that he put four on his vehicles, and others have followed suit.

"The real kicker about this whole thing," said Dimond, "is we're talking about a guy who's taking a pay cut, leaving his family, and putting his job on hold to go serve his country."

Roy:

Talking is problematic, so DC takes action

By Peter R. Roy

More than a year after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the country remains wholeheartedly focused on strengthening its levels of security and readiness for crises. "Emergency preparedness" has become a common expression and, now more than ever, cities and counties throughout the U.S. are pursuing initiatives to prepare for unexpected tragedies.

The government of the District of Columbia is revamping its communications technologies as one of many steps to improve its level of emergency services to its residents. The District needs faster, more reliable communications to eliminate life-threatening interruptions. During the Sept. 11 attacks, for example, many of the District's emergency wireless and telephone communication systems, which relied on the public switched telephone network, experienced overload triggered by heavy call volume, which in turn slowed the pace of response for the D.C. Metropolitan Police.

Joining the ranks of dozens of other cities throughout the U.S., Washington is currently developing DC-NET, a fiber optic telecommunications system owned and managed by the government of the District.

Gauging and Meeting Residents' Needs

In September 2002, the District's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) conducted a random citywide survey to ask residents about the benefits that they'd most like to derive from a municipally owned fiber optic telecommunications system. According to the survey, 85 percent of respondents believed that "a 911 telephone system in the District that is faster, more responsive

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and always available" was important or very important. When residents were asked about their experience with calls to 911 in the District, OCTO learned that 10 percent of calls placed to 911 were disconnected for a variety of reasons, including the unreliability of the technical infrastructure.

DC NET will improve the city's emergency services and preparedness by streamlining communications between law enforcement agencies, vital city departments, federal emergency teams and the public via radio, telephone, computer and wireless handheld devices. With DC NET in place,

more reliable dispatch transmissions for ambulances, fire trucks and police vehicles.

Equipping District emergency personnel with sophisticated wireless devices will also allow them to make more informed decisions. For instance, firefighters can receive images of the fire scene en route to the location, giving them the ability to more quickly and more strategically deploy team members to the best positions outside of the building to combat the fire.

Equipped with wireless devices connected to DC NET, emergency personnel can communicate

With DC NET, the 911 network will be faster, more reliable and always on. There will be no more busy signals and no more disconnected calls.

the 911 radio and telephone network will be faster, more reliable and always on. There will be no more busy signals and no more disconnected calls that are the result of the city's infrastructure. Through direct city access and monitoring of these emergency lines, the District's inter-agency communication and response teams will be able to deliver a greater volume and quality of emergency services to the community.

Through DC NET, the District also plans to make new wireless systems a seamless part of its existing emergency services communications grid. By 2004, thousands of District police officers, emergency, fire, and medical personnel could be equipped with PDA (personal digital assistant) devices that have wireless communications and GPS (global positioning satellite) location capabilities. GPS capability will enable dispatchers to determine quickly where personnel are located and if they are available to assist in an emergency situation. These capabilities will ensure faster and

with hospital personnel, sending and receiving critical patient information. Emergency medical teams at an accident scene will be able to retrieve information on patient histories, allergies and current health conditions from hospital crews. Emergency crews en route to area hospitals can provide real-time status reports on patient conditions so medical personnel are better prepared for victims' needs upon arrival.

Traffic Flow

DC NET will also be deployed to help officials monitor and control traffic flow. With DC NET in place, the District will install up to 700 special cameras at highly trafficked areas and major intersections along with sophisticated traffic-light management systems.

The city of Portland, Oregon, serves as a prime example of this use of fiber optic cabling. Portland officials are set to install video cameras at major intersections that are connected to a 70-mile

fiber optic network servicing government agencies as well as schools. Video feeds from these cameras will be sent directly and immediately to emergency dispatchers the moment an accident occurs. DC NET will play a similar role during times of emergency to redirect traffic, allowing emergency crews to get to the scene of an accident faster while keeping traffic flowing smoothly.

In recent years, anti-globalization protests have garnered significant attention as an increasing number of protesters use it as a forum to riot and wreak havoc in the District. This past September, Washington was once again home to the International Monetary Fund meeting and the accompanying IMF protests. Although the District was spared any significant incidents this time, looking ahead to future IMF meetings, DC NET-enabled cameras will give police, fire and emergency medical personnel the ability to monitor the flow of large crowds and prepare for outbursts of disruption or violence. Similarly, in the event of large-scale natural or man-made disasters, the Metropolitan Police and federal emergency teams can use the special cameras to direct traffic to ease congestion and more quickly identify the best evacuation routes.

The Challenges

Developing and engineering a publicly owned fiber optic telecommunications system can be an arduous process and it does come with a few challenges. It's understandable that existing private vendors would not readily embrace the development of a public infrastructure that seemingly encroaches on their territory. Ultimately, however, once DC NET is in place, the District plans to sub-contract significant portions of the operations, maintenance and construction of DC NET to a number of private vendors.

As part of DC NET's development, the District is attempting to negotiate with local telecommunications carriers for the use of existing underground pathways in which to lay down the DC NET infrastructure. Under a unique set of District laws, originally passed by Congress, "telephone and telegraph" companies are required to "reserve" such conduit for the city's fire and police call box system, and possibly other uses. The District has encountered some resistance from one particular carrier regarding the use of the conduit for DC-NET.

In the meantime, the District continues to lease access to at least some of the conduits. Not only would free access to these conduits speed up the implementation of DC NET, it would prevent the city from having to dig up roads and therefore inconvenience city residents in order to create new pathways.

In fact, once in place, DC NET will save the District \$10 million a year, year after year, on city communication costs. For every business hour that the DC NET initiative stalls, the D.C. government pays at least another \$4,800 to its existing telecommunications provider.

Where Residents Turn

One of OCTO's primary goals is to establish the District government as the resource for emergency services information. According to the OCTO's recent survey, only 11 percent of respondents

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Olson:

Wrongful convictions hurt everyone

By Robert K. Olson

A growing number of reports about innocent people being released from prison have sparked increasing interest in exploring ways to reduce these mistaken convictions.

It should come as no surprise that police departments support efforts to improve the system of justice to cut down the number of wrongful convictions. No one wants to see innocent people convicted of crimes they did not commit.

Our job is to investigate crimes, to gather evidence, and to work with victims to identify and convict those responsible for the crimes. When innocent persons are convicted, those who actually committed the crimes remain at large and a travesty of justice is the result. While it is important to free those who have been wrongfully convicted, it is also imperative to make changes in the legal process to reduce the chances of future wrongful convictions.

Police groups must be fully engaged in this reform process. Active involvement of police and prosecutors will ensure that efforts to address wrongful convictions focus on how to improve operation of the justice system, to increase public confidence in the fairness of our legal system and to increase the likelihood of the right result. Wrongful convictions are not caused by any single factor at any one level of the justice system. People have been wrongfully convicted through mistaken eyewitness identification, ineffective assistance of counsel, false confessions and unreliable laboratory work. Sometimes advances in science, such as the use of DNA evidence, open new possibilities in the investigation of older crimes.

While much of the media attention has centered on death-row releases and DNA exonerations, it is important to realize that the number and type of cases that involve wrongful convictions are broader than that. DNA tests will not apply to most cases which don't involve biological evidence, but systematic causes of wrongful convictions do apply.

We can all learn ways to improve our systems and practices to reduce errors that lead to wrongful convictions, and it is critical that reform efforts be supported by those involved at every level of the justice system, including victims, police, defense attorneys, prosecutors and judges. That's because solutions to the problem of wrongful convictions must look at the entire criminal justice process, from police investigations through the final court resolution. We also must stay focused on seeking systematic changes in our legal system to reduce future convictions of innocent persons. This effort cannot become a blame game directed at past actions of police, prosecutors and defense attorneys.

At the same time, police must be open to taking a new look at how we do our work. We should be willing to seek better methods to uncover the rare instances of police misconduct and to prevent inadvertent mistakes that lead to innocent people being charged with and convicted of crimes they did not commit.

For example, are there better training programs available to address the issue of investigating officers developing a theory in a case that sometimes causes them to fail to consider leads and evidence that point in a different direction? Could

we place more emphasis on our role in the broader context of doing justice, not simply arresting a suspect and obtaining a conviction? Can we improve communication with prosecutors and ensure that all of our evidence is shared with them?

Some police departments — including Phoenix and several throughout Minnesota — have started videotaping or audiotaping interrogation sessions with felony crime suspects. These new interrogation-taping programs are an important step because they recognize that many systematic changes must be developed and implemented at the local level, as the vast majority of criminal cases are brought in state and municipal courts. Pilot programs from various states can be evaluated, and successful models can be used in other jurisdictions.

A conference held in Washington in early January by the American Judicature Society provided an opportunity to look at problems in the criminal justice system nationally that have led to wrongful convictions, and to review potential solutions. As a nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice, the AJS was a perfect host for a conference that brought together representatives of all parts of the system. Police groups must be active participants in conferences like this and in other efforts to find solutions to this problem. Without support across the spectrum of our system of justice, including the police, it will be extremely hard to turn recommendations for change into real reforms.

(Robert K. Olson is Chief of the Minneapolis Police Department.)

Note to Readers:

The opinions expressed on the Forum page are those of the contributing writer or cartoonist, or of the original source newspaper, and do not represent an official position of Law Enforcement News.

Readers are invited to voice their opinions on topical issues, in the form of letters or full-length commentaries. Please send all materials to the editor

Hunt for serial killer opens DNA questions

Continued from Page 1

Law enforcement is honest, said Kobilnsky, and would not abuse the specimen obtained, but if that sample were to become part of a database, it could get the individual in trouble further down the road. The circumstances under which a sample is obtained

should be specific, he said.

"No judge is going to do a blanket subpoena of a whole community," he said. "I think that is an invasion of privacy. Even though I'm in favor of the concept of people volunteering to help law enforcement, I think coercion goes over the line and shouldn't be per-

mitted."

While the DNA dragnet in Louisiana is one the largest in the nation's history, it is not the first, nor is the first to generate dissent. In 1994 and 1995, more than 2,000 DNA samples were taken by Metro-Dade police in the Miami suburbs who were searching for the

person who strangled six prostitutes. While three possible matches were found before each was ruled out, the killer was found only after neighbors found a victim bound and gagged in the man's apartment while he was in court on an unrelated charge.

A racial furor was unleashed in 1994 when Ann Arbor, Mich., police began collecting samples from 160 black men after identifying more than 700 suspects in the rapes of 13 white women. The rapist was caught only after a cab driver spotted him with blood on his clothes.

In 1998, Prince George's County, Md., Police Chief John Farrell defended his position when police there sought DNA samples from 400 male workers at a county hospital where an administrator was raped and strangled. Union leaders denounced the dragnet as a bullying tactic that singled out maintenance workers. No match was made, and the killing remains unsolved.

And in 1999, Lawrence, Mass., police drew blood from 32 men at a nursing home where a resident had been raped and impregnated. A nurse's aide was linked to the crime and pleaded guilty. That same year, Los Angeles detectives reopened a 1985 case involving the killing of a sheriff's deputy. After collecting 12 of 165 samples from potential suspects, a former colleague of the victim refused to comply. He was matched to the crime after a court order forced him to submit a sample. He committed suicide before he could be arrested.

While some in law enforcement, such as Farrell, contend that conducting DNA dragnets are no different from fingerprinting everyone who worked or shopped in a store that had been burglarized, it is different, according to

James Alan Fox, a professor of criminal justice at Northeastern University. Mass fingerprint collections are virtually unheard of in criminal investigations because of the probability that prints will show up that belong to someone other than the perpetrator. That is not true with DNA evidence, he said.

"If you have a rape and murder, and there's semen recovered, it's highly unlikely that it was innocently left there," said Fox.

Michael E. Smith, a University of Wisconsin law professor who led a working group for the National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence, believes that genetic samples should be taken from every American at birth and submitted to a data bank. That way, he said, there could be no risk of racial discrimination. It would also act as a true deterrent to crime, said Smith.

According to Baton Rouge Police Chief Pat Engle, it was not an act of retaliation when detectives made public the warrant filed in November to force Kohler to comply. They believed that submitting to the test would help him clear his name from any sort of police files or databases.

Kohler had a 20-year-old burglary conviction for which he received a pardon, and investigators had received two anonymous tips about him. He also had once worked for a company located on the street where the first known victim's cell phone had been recovered.

Moreover, Kohler had openly made remarks that led investigators to believe he knew more about the case than he should have, according to Lynne Marino, the mother of victim Pam Kinamore. "He made himself seem suspicious," she said.

Va. police like their DNA database

Law enforcement agencies in Virginia have begun taking advantage of a state law passed last year that requires suspects charged with violent crimes and some other felonies to provide a DNA sample, or forfeit the right to be released at their booking.

The law, which took effect Jan. 1, is the first in the nation to allow such action so early in the legal process. State Attorney General Jerry W. Kilgore pushed for it in 2002, calling the statute the next logical step in the buildup of the state's DNA database. With 170,000 samples, Virginia's data bank is rivaled in size only by Great Britain's.

But civil libertarians are appalled by the law. "Virginia has become a national leader in invading people's privacy," said Rebecca K. Glenberg, legal director of the state's American Civil Liberties Union, in an interview with The New York Times. "We're always concerned when the government gathers a large amount of personal information for its own discretion."

Ira Robbins, a professor of criminal law at American University in Washington, D.C., said that there is real concern over whether it is proper to use DNA sampling to search for a suspect's involvement in other crimes beyond the immediate offense.

A convicted criminal, he told The

Times, had lost the presumption of innocence, but when genetic samples are taken from a newly arrested suspect, it "crosses a line I'm not sure we want to cross."

Waverly, Va., Police Chief Aaron Britton, whose agency was one of the first to begin taking samples under the new law, considers it a boon. His seven-member force has had a difficult time over the years with transient criminals, he noted.

"It'll help for these kinds of crimes we're getting these days," said Britton. "You have people doing things all over the place, and we never know who we're dealing with when we arrest them."

Headlines are not enough

Affirmative-action programs looking a little black & blue

The jury is still out on community policing

Time to rethink academy & field training

Maternity-leave

It's a mother force is too much

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Law Enforcement News

(1153103)

A publication of John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

Cops give NYPD the finger with pilot test of new high-tech ID cards

Later this year, the New York City Police Department will launch a pilot program in its Staten Island precincts to test new identification cards containing microchips capable of storing personal data such as the fingerprint, blood type, emergency contact and a physical description of the holder. If successful, the cards will be issued to all 50,000 sworn and civilian personnel.

According to officials, holograms, microscopic writing and guilloches — patterns of overlapping lines which cannot be photocopied — would make the IDs virtually impossible to duplicate. They would also speed up the payment of overtime because the cards would be directly linked with the city's payroll computer, Lieut. George Blanchard, who is heading the ID project, told The

Daily News.

While the pictures are being taken for the cards, the department will implement fingerprint scanning at its 1 Police Plaza headquarters. Beginning in January, all police and civilians will be asked to extend their right index finger for screening.

"We need a more reliable system to make certain we know who is coming into Police Department facilities post Sept. 11," said Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly. "We are also concerned that there are a lot of ID cards out there that may possibly be abused."

In addition to the personal information the cards contain, they can also be used as virtual time clocks. Supervisors using scanners would be able to follow officers assigned to big events, such as parades, and log employees movements in and out of the stationhouse. The IDs would also help identify who was on the scene at disasters.

While, philosophically, the city's police union has no bone to pick with the new cards, there are practical concerns about the ability of hackers to obtain personal information on officers, said Patrolman's Benevolent Association spokesman Albert O'Leary.

"Let me make it very clear that the PBA has not been briefed by the NYPD on those cards," he told Law Enforcement News. "Our president, Pat Lynch, is concerned about the issue of privacy"

MOVING?

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Upcoming Events

MARCH

10-11. Achieving Organizational Excellence. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Seattle.

10-12. Statement Analysis Training. Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Ocala, Fla. \$349

10-12. Effective Recruitment Techniques. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Knoxville, Tenn.

10-12. Civil Disorder Resolution II: Field Tactics. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. North Charleston, S.C.

10-12. Police Law & Legal Issues: What Every Manager Needs to Know About the Law. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Detroit.

10-14. Trends & Techniques in Internal Affairs. Presented by the Southern Police Institute. Douglasville, Ga. \$575.

10-14. Crime Analysis Training. Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Pine Bluff, Ark. \$525.

10-14. Criminal Investigative Analysis (Criminal Profiling). Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Hurst, Texas. \$525.

13-14. Leadership & Quality Policing. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. White Plains, N.Y.

13-14. Risk Management for Law Enforcement Agencies. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Detroit.

17. So You Want to Be a Personal Protection Specialist. Presented by the Executive Protection Institute. Las Vegas. \$190.

17. Use of Force Instructor Certification Course. Presented by the National Criminal Justice Training Council. Norman, Okla. \$495.

17-19. Crisis Negotiations. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Agnes, Mo.

17-21. Crime Analysis Training. Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Jacksonville, Fla. \$525.

17-21. Criminal Investigative Analysis (Criminal Profiling). Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Canton, Mich. \$525.

17-21. Executive & Dignitary Protection. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Boston.

18-19. Urban Terrorism. Presented by the Executive Protection Institute. Las Vegas. \$390.

18-19. Managing Criminal Investigations. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Yarmouth, Mass.

19-21. Effective Media Practices for the Law Enforcement Executive. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Alexandria, Va.

19-21. Advanced Supervision Skills. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Sandy, Utah.

19-22. Quarterly Conference. Presented by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Orlando, Fla.

20-21. Corporate Aircraft Security. Presented by the Executive Protection Institute. Las Vegas. \$390.

20-21. Less-Lethal Force Options: Selection & Police Consideration. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Durham, N.H.

24-25. Less-Lethal Projectile Instructor Certification. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Manchester, N.H.

24-25. Value-Centered Leadership: A Workshop on Ethics, Values & Integrity. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Chesterfield, Va.

24-27. SWAT Supervision & Management. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Durham, N.H.

24-27. Planning, Designing & Constructing Police Facilities. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Sammamish, Wash.

29. Tactical Folding Knife Course. Presented by Northeastern Tactical Schools. Northborough, Mass.

30. Firearms Disarming, Retention & Recovery Course. Presented by Northeastern Tactical Schools. Northborough, Mass.

31-April 5. 14th National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect. Presented by the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. St. Louis. \$300.

31-April 18. Strategic Leadership. Presented by the Southern Police Institute. Lafayette, Colo. \$1,350.

APRIL

2-4. Contemporary Patrol Administration. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Buffalo Grove, Ill.

2-4. Administering a Small Law Enforcement Agency. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Mooresville, N.C.

2-4. Internal Affairs: Legal & Operational Issues. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Nashville, Tenn.

2-6. Annual Spring Training Conference.

Presented by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. Washington, D.C.

3-4. Ethical Standards in Police Service. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Oswego, N.Y.

7. Intellectual Property Crime. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Phoenix.

7-8. Advanced Grant Writing & Management. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Silver Spring, Md.

7-9. Advanced Internal Affairs: Proactive Steps for Corruption Prevention. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Nashville, Tenn.

7-11. Law Enforcement Ethics Train-the-Trainer. Presented by the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration. Dallas. \$545.

7-11. Trends & Techniques in Internal Affairs. Presented by the Southern Police Institute. Louisville, Ky. \$575.

9-11. Investigation of Incidents of Excessive/Deadly Force by Police. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. St. Peters, Mo.

10-12. Academy of Security Educators & Trainers Annual Conference. Gettysburg, Pa. \$190.

14-18. Criminal Investigative Analysis (Criminal Profiling). Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Lakewood, Colo. \$525.

14-18. Management of a Small Law Enforcement Agency. Presented by the Southern Police Institute. Louisville, Ky. \$575.

21-22. Multi-Agency Incident Management for Law Enforcement & Fire Service. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Chesterfield, Va.

21-23. Rapid Deployment to High-Risk Incidents. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Oswego, N.Y.

21-25. Crime Analysis Training. Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Kansas City, Mo. \$525.

21-25. Criminal Intelligence Analysis Training. Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Clearwater, Fla. \$525.

24-25. Police Leadership: Managing the Future. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Cedar Grove, N.J.

26. Tactical Folding Knife Course. Presented by Northeastern Tactical Schools. Dunbarton, N.H.

27. Firearms Disarming, Retention & Recovery Course. Presented by Northeastern Tactical Schools. Dunbarton, N.H.

28-30. Advanced Tactical Leadership for Commanders & Supervisors. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Manchester, N.H.

28-30. Excellence in the FTO Program. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Marietta, Ga.

28-30. Surveillance & Undercover Officer Techniques. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Detroit.

28-May 2. Criminal Intelligence Analysis Training. Presented by the Alpha Group for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training. Fort Smith, Ark. \$525.

We're Making a List...

Listings in the Upcoming Events section of LEN are free, on a first-come, first-served basis. Please mail, fax or e-mail items to Upcoming Events, LEN, 555 W 57th St., New York, NY 10019

LAPD eyes mentoring to boost female ranks

Hoping to boost from 19 percent to 25 percent the proportion of women in the 9,000-officer Los Angeles Police Department, Police Chief William Bratton and city officials in December launched a recruitment campaign that includes programs to prepare female recruits for both the physical and psychological rigors of police work.

The new programs were prompted by a provision of the city's consent decree that requires the department to pursue policies that would increase its gender and ethnic diversity.

At a press conference held in December, Mayor James K. Hahn said women were a potential pool of candidates who were being overlooked. "We are here to do something about it."

Key among the initiatives is a mentoring program that will match up women already in the department with those in the police academy. According to Dorothy M. Schulz, an expert on women in policing who teaches at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, while there is not much formal research, informal questioning has indicated that women know less about what they are "getting into" in law enforcement than men do.

"By 'getting into,' I don't mean the horror," Schulz told Law Enforcement News, "I mean the whole culture of wearing a uniform, working nights and weekends, possibly unusual shifts. A lot more women seem to judge policing by what they see on television, and therefore, it's a bigger shock for them when they actually find out what it's about."

Men, said Schulz, tend to fit more easily in the group. That group then becomes a mentor, rather than a single individual, she said.

"Women maybe don't become part of the group, or men presume they are not as career-oriented. They tend for any number of reasons to be left out of those circles of information and support we define as mentoring," Schulz noted.

But the LAPD should be cautious in parring up female recruits exclusively with female mentors, said April Kranda, a former Fairfax County, Va., police lieutenant and consultant who has written a best-practices guide on mentoring for the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Kranda, who runs two-day courses

Do women need to know more about what they're "getting into" in law enforcement?

on establishing mentoring programs within organizations, said such a plan could cause a swell of resentment by males, as well as cut women off from a pool of potential mentors.

"If they are going to create their mentoring program that only allows the participation of women, that's a mistake," she told LEN. "I say that because, first of all, they need to get buy-in from majority of the organization. It's been my experience, having overseen a mentoring program, that some of your best mentors to women will be men."

However, should a recruit want a female mentor, the agency should accommodate that request, said Kranda. The whole point of the system, she said, is to set the individual up to succeed. In the best-case scenario, recruits would be matched with someone who has similar personal interests.

The role of a mentor must also be clearly defined so that both the mentor and the recruit understand the difference between the mentor's role and that of a field training officer or an academy instructor, said Kranda.

She suggests training for mentors, as well, so that they know what the agency expects of them. "It's a system of support, not rescue," said Kranda. "They've got to know when they are overstepping boundaries and crossing into an area that is traditionally the FTO's."

A pool of mentors should be established so that they can act as resources for each other, too, she said. For example, if a female being mentored by a male officer wants to speak to another woman, that officer should be able to call upon a female colleague also acting as a mentor and facilitate the meeting.

"That's perfectly acceptable," said Kranda. "Really, the mindset of the mentoring process should be to provide that system of support, give feedback, give information that will help them to succeed."

Forum: Taking action with DC NET

Continued from Page 9

dents relied on DC's emergency services for information and updates on evacuation routes during the Sept. 11 attacks. DC NET is just one initiative from Mayor Anthony Williams's office that will build residents' confidence in the District's ability to respond quickly to critical situations.

The D.C. Emergency Atlas is another initiative on OCTO's and the Mayor's agenda. Currently in development, this Web site will become the "go-to" site for information on emergency issues ranging from natural disasters and terrorist threats to poison control. By tapping into the District's Geographic Information System capabilities, visitors to the site will be able to view a map of District neighborhoods, click on a particular building or

site and obtain location-based information such as evacuation routes and the nearest police station or emergency medical facility. Metropolitan Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey and his department will contribute their expertise and emergency data to the site, offering safety tips and guidelines, as well as emergency information.

Washington, D.C., is responding to community concerns in many ways, from developing technologies that help the Metropolitan Police to protect and serve residents better, to keeping citizens better informed on emergencies and critical situations as they occur. DC NET is an ambitious project that will dramatically improve the safety and confidence of District and will be the primary communications vehicle for all DC emergency personnel.

For further information:

Addresses & phone/fax numbers for organizations listed in calendar of events.

Academy of Security Educators & Trainers, P.O. Box 802, Berryville, VA 22611. (540) 554-2540. Fax: (540) 554-2558.

Alpha Group Center for Crime & Intelligence Analysis Training, P.O. Box 8, Montclair, CA 91763. (909) 989-4366. Fax: (909) 476-8271. Web: <www.alphagroupcenter.com>.

American Jail Association, Fax: (301) 790-2941. Web: <www.aja.org>.

Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 2030 M St., N.W., Suite 701, Washington, DC 20036. (202) 467-0864. Fax: (202) 887-0738. Web: <www.juvjustice.org>.

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, 1-800-368-3757. Web: <www.calca.org>.

Executive Protection Institute, Highlander Lodge, P.O. Box 802, Berryville, VA 22611. (540) 554-2540.

Institute for Law Enforcement Administration, 5201 Democracy Dr., Plano, TX 75024. Web: <222.theilca.org>.

International Association of Chiefs of Police, 1-800-THE-IACP. Fax: (703) 836-4543.

National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect, c/o PAL-TECH, 1901 N. Moore St., Suite 204, Arlington, VA 22209. (703) 528-0435. E-mail: 14Conf@pal-tech.com.

National Criminal Justice Training Council, P.O. Box 1003, Twin Lakes, WI 53181-1003. (262) 279-5735. Fax: (262) 279-5758. Web: <www.ncjtc.org>.

Northeastern Tactical Schools, P.O. Box 591, Nutting Lake, MA 01865. (978) 667-5591.

Southern Police Institute, University of Louisville, (502) 852-6561. Fax: (502) 852-0335. Web: <www.louisville.edu/a-s/ajalspi>.

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January 15/31, 2003

Hitting the brakes:

As police pursuits increasingly end in accidents, the LAPD seeks to end the city's



"longest-running reality TV show." Page 1.

Ready for their closeup:

DC police interrogation rooms will soon have a new feature — videotaping equipment. Page 7.



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What They Are Saying:

"When they first started this, I thought they were nuts. . . . Now, I wouldn't do it any other way"

— Ken McCabe, chief investigator for the Kankakee County, Ill., Sheriff's Department, on the growing practice of videotape-recording every felony interrogation. (Story, Page 7.)